

**SPORTS
FINAL**

Granite City Press Record

VOLUME 94, NUMBER 52

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1996

(USPS226-160) FIFTY CENTS

NEWS

Christmas lesson:
Local youngsters
learned a lesson
when they helped a
local charity effort.

Page 3A

PEOPLE

**Madison County
Republicans have
made their choice
for a replacement
for Treasurer John
Shimkus.**

Page 6A



Visitor — Martha LaRose says hello to "PJ" the Sheltie during the dog's visit to Colonial Care Center in Granite City with owner Mary Spillman of the North County Obedience Training Club. PJ's name stands for "Pride and Joy." Spillman and her dog visit places where people who may need a bit of a pet's love are unable to keep animals. More photos on Page 6A.

(Staff photo by JOHN FRIESE)

Council backs new TIF plan Industrial development eyed

By Bob Slate
Staff writer

Granite City intends to create a tax increment finance district of more than 600 acres along Illinois 3 — including Tri-City Regional Port District property.

On Tuesday, the City Council unanimously approved a motion by Alderman Bob Page, chairman of the Industrial Search Committee, to have a resolution presented at the Jan. 7 council meeting expressing the city's intent to form a TIF district along Illinois 3 from Rock Road to Chain of Rocks Road.

A TIF district is a development tool. When the TIF district is formed, the amount of property tax money generated within the district is "frozen" at its existing level. Any future property tax money above the freeze level — the increment — is withheld from other taxing bodies in the district and rebated to the TIF district. The increment can be used for improvements in the TIF district. While some aldermen were initially

concerned about the potential effect a



TIF district could have on the school district, Mayor Ron Selph said plans call for industrial and commercial uses only (no residences) in the development area. "The great thing about a TIF is everybody benefits from the (property value) increase in 23 years or less," Selph said.

Aldermen Alan Crider and Nick Petrillo — both employees of the Granite City school district — said the school district objects to TIFs that contain residential development because they force schools to educate more students with no corresponding increase in funding.

Alan Ortbals, executive director of the Southwestern Illinois Development Authority (and former economic development director for the city), said the boundaries of the proposed TIF (See TIF, Page 8A)



Bad blood: Baricevic, Hamm clash

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

If St. Clair County Board Chairman John Baricevic just wanted to get the attention of the Madison City Council, he succeeded.

At Tuesday's council meeting, Baricevic was given a chance to defend what aldermen called an "offensive" letter he sent to Mayor John Belcoff asking the city to reconsider the recent approval of a ticket tax for Gateway International Raceway.

After discussion, Baricevic apologized for the tone of the letter and said he only wanted the issues raised to be discussed. City officials said both during the meeting and afterwards that the letter may move the council to reconsider the tax, but not in a direction that would please Baricevic.

In November the council approved an "entertainment tax" in the form of a ticket tax for "major" events. In 1997 the tax will be 30 cents per ticket. That figure will rise to 60 cents the next year and one dollar in 1999. After that, the city will

(See BARICEVIC, Page 2A)



Above, Alderman John Hamm makes a point during Tuesday's City Council meeting. At left, St. Clair County Board Chairman John Baricevic defends the letter he sent to Madison.

(Staff photos by JOHN FRIESE)

Two are charged with hate crime

A 29-year-old white Granite City man charged with a hate crime Monday for allegedly using a racial slur and damaging a car containing two black women Friday night was out on bond at the time for a felony marijuana possession charge. Kenneth N. Cave, who gave police addresses in the 700 block of 27th Place and in the 2200 block of Madison Avenue, was

arrested at 10:10 p.m. Friday and charged with a hate crime and criminal damage to property in a felony warrant.

Cave and Brian W. Thomas, 28, of the 100 block of 22nd Street, allegedly harassed two black women at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Granite City Friday night, followed the women to the

(See CRIME, Page 8A)

In the Press-Record

Index

Funeral summary.....	5B	Sports.....	1B
News.....	2A	Classifieds.....	4B
Opinion.....	4A	Family.....	6C
People.....	1C	Entertainment.....	2C
Obituaries.....	5B		

5 FULLER'S FORECAST

John Fuller, Meteorologist, KSDK-NowChannel 5

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
17 6	19 7	26 18	33 24

Faces

Steve Gaumer loves nothing better than a good political debate.

Gaumer, 36, of Granite City, has been adjunct instructor of political science and history for Belleville Area College for the past six years, teaching at the school's Belleville, Granite City and Red Bud campuses as well as at the Collinsville and Highland extension centers.

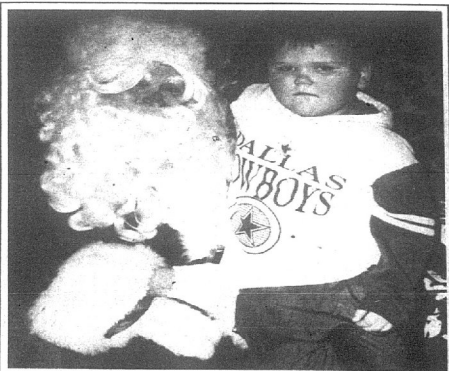
"I encourage a frank discussion among my students," Gaumer said.

Beginning this spring, Gaumer will be teaching full time at the Granite City Campus of BAC.

"I enjoy the friendliness of the people. It's a more personal atmosphere," he said.



Steve Gaumer



(Photo by SHIRLEY VALENCIA)

Oh, Santa — Nicholas Patterson visits with Santa Claus during the Democratic Precinct Committeeman's annual Christmas for Kids party and toy giveaway. More photos on Page 1C.

LOCAL NEWS

News in review

News in review provides a summary of some of the past week's stories. This column is designed for out-of-town readers who do not receive the Sunday and Wednesday Press-Record/Journals.

Raceway seeks more events

Although November was a little wetter and cooler than they would have liked, officials with Gateway International Raceway in Madison say construction is on schedule and they are looking forward to a busy first season.

In addition to three major events, Rod Wolter, general manager for the racetrack, said raceway officials were working on a number of small and medium sized races. He said they are also moving ahead with plans for a law enforcement driving school, and have been contacted about training limousine drivers.

Ticket sales to the general public for three major events — the PPG Cup IndyCar World Series race May 22-24, the National Hot Rod Association's Craftsman Nationals on June 26-29, and the NASCAR Busch Series, Grand National Division, on July 24-25 — started Friday.

Track General Manager Rod Wolter said they probably would not be adding any more major events this year, but hope to build that number up to five or six per year — including a NASCAR Winston Cup Series race.

April ballot filling fast

April 1 will see a full ballot in Granite City, if the current trend is any indication.

As of Monday, 30 official candidates for office in either Granite City or Granite City Township had picked up petitions to have their names placed on the ballot.

As of Monday, five candidates had picked up petitions to run for mayor. A city clerk, treasurer and eight aldermen will also be elected in the city. A township supervisor and assessor are also to be elected.

With the exception of Township Supervisor Bernie Hagauer, all incumbents have indicated they will seek re-election.

Bowler a mayoral candidate

Former Granite City alderman and school board member Paul Ray Bowler is a candidate for mayor in the April 1 election.

Bowler, 45, picked up petitions last week to have his name placed on the ballot as a mayoral candidate. He joins current Mayor Ron Selph; former school board members Dewey Melton and David Partney; and Larry Severs in the endeavor.

Bowler holds a master's degree in administration from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and a certificate of accomplishment from the Export/Import Bank of the United States. According to his resume he serves as a financial consultant in Europe arranging loans, guarantees and letters of credit for commercial ventures in new and emerging Eastern Bloc countries. He has also served as an instructor for Belleville Area College, the Granite City school district and other school districts.

He said he will focus the campaign on economic development and environmental issues.

Workers upbeat over merger

The proposed purchase of McDonnell Douglas Corp. of St. Louis by Boeing Co. announced Sunday struck McDonnell employees like a bolt out of the blue.

Telephone calls from employees poured into McDonnell headquarters after the announcement.

Kenneth Nochia, a machinist from Collinsville, said he doesn't expect many changes in St. Louis operations. Nochia has been at McDonnell Douglas for almost 28 years.

"I think it's going to affect (Long Beach) California a lot more than here," Nochia said. "That's where all of the commercial planes are built and that's what Boeing is really big in. We do all of the defense building."

McDonnell machinists union president Jerry Oulson woke up at his Brighton home Sunday to the stunning news. "I had heard the rumors that Boeing and McDonnell were negotiating, but it came as a complete surprise that a deal had been finalized," he said.

Oulson sees the merger with the Seattle-based Boeing as a potential boost to the manufacture of jet fighter aircraft at McDonnell in St. Louis.

Changes proposed in Pontoon

A resolution changing the way Pontoon Beach handles bank deposits and other record-keeping functions was given first reading at Tuesday's village board meeting.

The resolution would require the village clerk or deputy clerk to open all mail addressed to the village, prepare a list of cash and checks received, and prepare the deposit slip. Deposits would be required on a daily basis.

Comptroller Lou Whitsett now makes deposits, and mail has been split between his office and the clerk's office. The clerk would also receive and review bank statements and canceled checks before forwarding them to the village comptroller for final reconciliation.

Food items collected

Hope Lutheran Church youth group had a food scavenger hunt on Nov. 10 to help restore the food pantry at Protestant Welfare. The youth collected 175 items from the neighborhood.

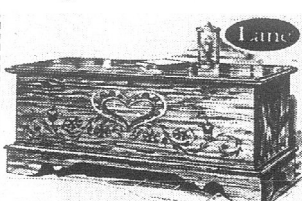
Special prizes donated by Nameoki Cinema, Tri-City Skate Center and Hardee's were given to the teens who participated.

Those who participated were: Sarah Pfelding, Michael Leach II, Melanie Leach, Mark Hudson, Tiffany Thack, Kelly Signall, Nicole Tleman, Michelle Milton, Alan Schmedeman, Christopher Vineyard, Elizabeth Vineyard, Danille Wierjowski, Pat Wierjowski, Tammy Brazel, Diana Leach, Vivian Hudson, Vickie Schallert, Amy Schmedeman and Vicki Schmedeman.

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Madison taxes to decline

Property tax rate may dip more than \$1 per \$100

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

Madison property owners should see a substantial drop in city property taxes next year.

The council Tuesday approved the annual tax levy. City Attorney Casper Nighossian said that based on the city's equalized assessed value, the tax rate should fall between 30 cents and \$1.30 per \$100 assessed valuation from the present \$2.64 per \$100.

That would save the owner of a \$30,000 house between \$90 and \$130 per year.

The council also received notice from

Madison County State's Attorney Bill Haine that he was informing the Illinois Attorney General's office about the lawsuit recently filed against the city over the annexation of parts of Chouteau Island.

Nighossian said that was a formality because Haine is challenging the constitutionality of a law, and the Attorney General must be invited to participate.

In other business, Health Inspector George Amisch explained the process for citing a homeowner for having trash in their yards. Aldermen frequently complain about the time it takes to deal with similar problems.

Using a recent example, Amisch said the property owner was originally cited on Sept. 12 and given 2-5 days to clean up the problem. By Sept. 23 nothing was done, and a complaint was filed with the courts.

On Dec. 10 police tagged a derelict vehicle on the property, and the case finally went before a judge this month.

"The upshot of this was the individual was given another 30 days," Amisch said.

The council also approved an 18-month contract with police dispatchers, who recently became part of Teamsters Local 325. Alderman John Hamm said dispatchers would receive a 4 percent raise in May.

Baricevic

(Continued from Page 1A)

consider the tax.

In a Dec. 3 letter, Baricevic accused the city of "gilding the lily" and making an unwise decision to lay the racetrack at this time.

The letter also said the city's action was "morally dishonest" and "misleading."

"Never in negotiations did the city raise this issue," the letter said. "In good faith we told the track what they could expect."

"The plan by the city is bait and switch," the letter continued. "In the private sector this action would be viewed as misleading and actionable by any Better Business Bureau."

He also sent a letter to Madison City Attorney Casper Nighossian regarding conversations they had over a supposed meeting about the tax between county development authority and racetrack officials in which the city was excluded.

"...do not call me unless you have been directed to by the Mayor," the second letter said. "Communication is very important, but I deal with people elected to represent their communities."

The letter also said it was "interesting that you think you should be invited to meetings when the city does not invite the county."

"If you learn what mutual cooperation is there will be no problem with the city," it said.

At Tuesday's meeting Baricevic was more conciliatory, saying that adding the tax at this time could endanger the bonding for the track.

He said the development was "truly a team effort" involving a lot of people.

He said because of the bonding, financing is a major issue and an entertainment tax was never mentioned.

"Nowhere during that process did anybody from the city of Madison ever raise the issue that there would be a tax on the tickets," Baricevic said.

He also said that because the entertainment tax is over a three-year period, and the bonding 20 years, it creates an element of uncertainty.

"My only request to you at this point is

that we continue discussion of this effort," Baricevic told the council. "I'm not suggesting that the three-year package that you are considering is inappropriate."

Alderman John Hamm, chairman of the council's Finance Committee, said he was offended by the letter. He also noted that relations between the city and St. Clair County had been less than cordial at times.

"You want to get a racetrack in here in 1985 or 1986," Hamm said. "Didn't St. Clair County at that time say, 'Don't annex into Madison. We'll give you (the track's previous owners) a \$300,000 loan if you don't annex into Madison.'"

Hamm said there were a number of issues to consider. He also said that in 1994 the council had considered an entertainment tax and that racetrack officials knew about it.

He said that the city had originally agreed to delay an entertainment tax, but "a lot of things came up after that."

"I won't go into big details because I think we have a good relationship with the racetrack at this time," Hamm said.

He also said the final form of the tax came after intense negotiations with racetrack officials.

"We came down from a dollar," he said. "There's probably still aldermen sitting in this room right now that would like to see the dollar tax put on that racetrack."

"To get it down to 30 cents — I think those are honorable, faithful negotiations."

He also said the city had spent a great deal of money and taken risks to bring the development to the area.

"The fact is that we put a \$200,000 water line out there to make this area grow," he said. "I didn't hear anything about how the city of Madison last year and the year before — when we needed money — reached into city coffers and spent \$20,000 with the Southwestern Illinois Development Authority to put this racetrack deal together. Did St. Clair County put anything in toward that \$20,000, I don't know."

Hamm also criticized the county for lawsuits over the city's St. Clair County

annexations, which he said held up \$340,000 "of the city's money of an entertainment tax."

He also asked if Baricevic would send a similar letter to city officials in St. Clair County.

"That's strong stuff to lay on aldermen who are not in your county, but are in this county," Hamm said.

Alderman Ron Grzywacz also said he was offended by the letter, and had planned to write a response that Baricevic would not have liked.

"For a man in your position to send us aldermen a letter like this is a disgrace," Grzywacz said.

Baricevic responded by saying that Nighossian's actions were also a "disgrace," and that it was Nighossian who fired the first shot.

Baricevic said he sent the letter to get the council's attention.

"You got our attention, and it is very possible that we are going to revisit the ordinance, but I don't know that you'll be happier when we revisit the ordinance," Hamm said.

Aldermen Harvey Haynes and Michael Vrabec said the possibility of an entertainment tax had been talked about for years and was well-known by racetrack officials.

Vrabec also said he was "very steamed" about the tone of the letter.

"I think the letter could have been more tactful," he said.

Nighossian said he thought Baricevic "misunderstood" his attempt to communicate.

Nighossian said on Nov. 29, Rod Wolter, general manager of the racetrack, told him there was a meeting between Orbital owner Chris Pook, Wolter, Alan Orbital of SWIDA and Baricevic regarding the city's tax, and the possibility that the county would institute its own tax.

Nighossian advised Hamm of the supposed meeting, and attempted to find out what was going on.

He said he eventually reached Orbital, who said he had no knowledge of the meeting.

Car flips, driver trapped, charged

By Bob Slate
Staff writer

A joy ride turned into a nightmare for an O'Fallon man and four Collinsville residents Tuesday night when the car they were in flipped in the air and landed on its side in the middle of Nameoki Road, plunging the driver underneath for nearly a half hour.

Police pulled beer cans and bottles of wine and whiskey from the wreckage, and charged the driver, Jason E. Tucker, 21, of O'Fallon, with driving under the influence of alcohol.

Tucker, Christopher S. Prestito, 21, of Collinsville, and three Collinsville girls ages 18, 16 and 15 were northbound in the 2000 block of Nameoki Road at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday when Tucker lost control of the car, which left the road in front of "The Swamp" pet store, struck a railroad tie embankment, flipped into the

side with Tucker hanging out the window, according to police reports.

Firefighters and paramedics worked feverishly in freezing temperatures to extricate Tucker from the wreckage. He was taken to St. Elizabeth Medical Center and treated for injuries as were three of the passengers.

All four passengers told police Tucker had been drinking and was driving too fast at the time of the crash because he had just stolen the whiskey from Ice House Liquors, 2446 Washington Ave., according to a police report.

An Ice House employee told police Tucker pulled up to the drive through and ordered a case of beer and a bottle of whiskey. He then ordered a bottle of wine, but left without paying for it.

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County will study MetroLink possibility

Board agrees to include light rail in plan

Years after MetroLink has been embraced by much of the St. Louis area, Madison County will study the concept.

During its meeting Wednesday morning, the County Board voted unanimously in favor of a resolution that will include study of MetroLink in its ongoing Long Range Transportation Plan.

In 1987 and as recently as this summer, the Madison County Transit District had declined to give financial support to St. Clair County's efforts to build MetroLink through East St. Louis, Belleville and to the planned Mid-America airport.

But the resolution approved states that the county is ready to "pursue future funding for such a transportation system and would like to show support and endorse such a system for Madison County."

The resolution was brought forward by the board's highway committee.

Board member Richard Worthen, D-Alton, said the resolution was prompted by growing public support for MetroLink.

"I have personally been contacted by many people who are interested in MetroLink, and light rail is definitely successful," Worthen said.

Worthen cautioned that the resolution on the agenda Wednesday was just the first step toward studying MetroLink.

"We are years away from implementation. These transportation projects are very long-term," he said.

Madison County State's Attorney William Haine was chairman of the transit district in 1987 when Madison County declined to support MetroLink expansion.

Haine said he was glad the county is looking into light rail again.

"I don't regret for a second having input in those decisions along with the late (County Board) Chairman Nelson Hagnauer," Haine said. "This is 1996, and there are new variables. If the federal government is going to hand out millions of dollars to build another light rail line, then we want to be considered."

Haine said the reason MetroLink was not investigated earlier was that Madison County did not want to raise taxes to pay for a system that would serve St. Clair County, even though some Madison County riders may have used the system.

There is no free lunch or free train ride," Haine said. "Even with federal help, the cost of building and maintaining light rail will be tremendous."

Haine said the Madison County Transit District is now basking in the glow of the decisions made in 1987 to concentrate on bus service, van pools and bike trails.

He said any earlier commitment to MetroLink would have jeopardized those accomplishments.

— From The Telegraph with information from staff writer Nicole Vaughn



Third and fourth graders attending Central Christian Church surprised local businessman Don Caughron with "Caring and Sharing" boxes filled with contributions to needy families. Caughron runs a food pantry from his downtown hardware store year-round. Pictured from left are Karen Smart, Lesley Rivenburgh, teacher Charlene Vunovic, Shelley Clark, Jeffrey Huff, Stephanie Huff, Amber Young, Erika Skouby and Caughron.

Lesson for Christmas

Children show charity

By Bob Slate
Staff writer

Jo Stephens and Charlene Vunovic wanted their third and fourth grade Sunday School class at Central Christian Church to learn the importance of giving at Christmas time.

"We were studying about Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birth, and how the wise men brought him gifts," Vunovic said. "We wanted to teach the children that it is so important to remember people who are less fortunate — and that it is much more pleasant to give than to get."

What better way for the children to learn than to see first hand someone who gives to the needy year-round, they thought.

So the teachers helped the children prepare "Caring and Sharing" boxes and encouraged them to fill the boxes with money. The children then met at the church and took the donations — totaling \$56 — to Don's Hardware Store downtown.

The owner of the business, Don Caughron, runs a food pantry out of one side of the

store, feeding hungry people not only at Christmas, but all year.

Caughron began feeding the hungry — with contributions as well as with money from his own pocket — in 1990 after he discovered two people in an alley digging food from a trash can.

Since that time, he has kept a food pantry stocked in his store. He has been known to give away window fans to less fortunate individuals during the summer and he tries to collect toys and dolls for distribution at Christmas.

"I was so surprised that the children came up with \$56," Vunovic said. "I expected each of them to have maybe 50 cents or a dollar. It was a good lesson for them."

Class members participating were Erika Skouby, Karen Smart, Lesley Rivenburgh, Shelley Clark, Amber Young, Stephanie Huff and Jeffrey Huff.

Following the visit to the hardware store to deliver the donation, the children returned to the church for a pizza party and dress rehearsal for the church's Christmas Cantata.

Derailment concerns police

By Bob Slate
Staff writer

Granite City officials are concerned about what they perceive as slow notification by a railroad company of a train derailment that occurred Dec. 8.

The derailment apparently damaged the 19th Street overpass and created a potentially hazardous situation, according to a memo from Steve Osborn of Jumeau Associates, the city's contractual engineering firm.

"The wreck occurred at 6:15 (a.m.) Dec. 8," Police Chief Dave Ruebhausen said. "We were not notified of the derailment until 9:08 (a.m.)."

After being notified, police shut down the overpass until an inspection showed it was safe for use.

Two empty box cars, traveling about 10 miles per hour, derailed and hit the stem of a concrete pier on the south end of the overpass, according to the memo. One of the cars — which lost its sliding door in the accident — took a three-by-two-foot chunk of concrete four inches deep off the corner of the stem and tore a reinforcing bar in two, the memo states.

Another box car came to rest against the pier stem but caused little damage, the memo states.

About four additional freight cars were derailed and lay in disarray around the freight yard when city officials arrived. Track was ripped up and broken and switches and ties were bent by the accident.

An eighth of an inch separation between the pier stem and the ground indicated the pier may have moved slightly, but there were no other signs of damage to the overpass, according to the memo.

Alderman Craig Tarpo, a member of the City Council's Fire and Water Committee and chairman of its Engineering Committee, expressed concern about the delay by the railroad company in notifying the city.

"Had there been hazardous materials involved, all the trouble the city has gone to get training to respond would have been for naught," Tarpo said.

"This is a heavily traveled overpass that sustained severe structural damage. The results could have been catastrophic," Ruebhausen agreed. "We didn't hear from the railroad company for nearly three hours. With one and a half inches of bar sticking out and trains piled up, I am concerned about the delay in notification," he said.

The track was blocked for nearly nine hours while railroad crews cleared the debris and repaired damages.

Venice receives police grant

Money will be used to hire four new police officers

By Bob Slate
Staff writer

The city of Venice will hire four new police officers, thanks to a federal grant announced Wednesday.

Venice has been awarded a \$233,720 grant from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office of the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello said.

Venice police Chief James Newsome said the funds will be used to help pay salary and benefits for four additional officers.

Newsome said he plans to reinstitute the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program, initiate meetings on safety targeting seniors and neighborhoods, and beef up patrols.

Costello said the COPS grants have been an effective tool for communities.

"Increased police presence has been demonstrated as an important factor in reducing crime in communities in our region and nationwide," Costello said.

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OAK JEWELRY ARMOIRE
WALNUT QUEEN ANNE
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8 DRAWERS
FOLD DOWN
16 INCHES
100% U.S.A.
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SHELVES
STARTING AT
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HOME THEATRE GROUP
88" WIDE 78" HIGH
100% U.S.A.
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ALL CRAFT ITEMS ON SALE

SOLID OAK CURIO CABINETS
24" \$129
36" \$159
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SOLID OAK BLANKET CHEST
100% U.S.A.
FOLD DOWN
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OAK BARRISTER
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CHILDREN'S RECLINERS
\$7900

CHILDREN'S ROCKER
5 STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM
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CHILDREN'S TABLE & CHAIRS
STARTING AT
\$199

4 STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM
STARTING AT
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ROUND OR SQUARE ROUND
TABLE 48" x 48" U.S.A.
100% U.S.A.
FOLD DOWN
100% U.S.A.
MIRROR TOP
\$539

SOLID OAK DISPLAY
TABLE
100% U.S.A.
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SOLID OAK END TABLE
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CURIO COCKTAIL TABLE
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SIDE RACK
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CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE 3:00 P.M. — CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

THANKS TO OUR MANY SATISFIED CUSTOMERS, WE RECENTLY PURCHASED 5 1/2 ACRES TO BUILD OUR NEW 24,000 SQ. FOOT FACILITY TO SERVE OUR CUSTOMERS BETTER. TARGET DATE FOR OUR NEW STORE IS JANUARY, 1997.

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That's right. Take your pick from any '96 or '97 and pay what we pay!

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Opinion

Carol's comments

Foolishness may help with the holidays

We all have to eat our words now and again and today I've started chewing on a few on my own.

Making a fashion statement (of sorts) which I swore I'd never do. Storm advisory to anyone seeing me wearing this garment; no comment, if you know what's good for you.

Last week the UPS delivery dropped off a few packages and among them was one from Chris which she'd already weaned me was en route, a box containing a list I'd ask for (and which could have been mailed for 32-cents) and what she described as a "pre-Christmas gift. I couldn't resist getting it."

The gift? A holiday sweatshirt in a most unbecoming shade of green with some glitter on the silver lettering. Thankfully, not a Looney Tunes. Instead, a green-faced Santa-clad Grinch, evil grin and all, preparing to descend on Whoville and steal Christmas. The accompanying note said the thing was irresistible because "I know the Grinch has always been one of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters. PLEASE wear it."

This morning I donned the thing and not only is the color awful on me but the damn sweat is HUGE. Has to be a man's x-large. The sleeves at full length cover my hands, the shoulders drop half-way to my elbows and the garment hangs to nearly mid-thigh. I look completely ridiculous in the thing and it will undoubtedly further incite C.C.P. to continue to address me as "Shorty."

Will I actually wear this hideous thing in public. Yes. Not often, maybe two or three times before Christmas. For several reasons which may only make sense to me. First, of course, is that I'm touched that my daughter remembers how much I like the Seuss Christmas tale.

Second, because it reminds me of a holiday season of yesteryear and the swift passage of time. Early in December I'd run into Linda Hansen at a jazz concert and she'd invited me out to a dress rehearsal at LeClaire School where her class (first grade, second? I've forgotten, Linda) was preparing to stage a production of the Seuss classic.

I attended not only the rehearsal but the production itself and it made my holiday. The narrative was read, so all the kids had to do was act it out and I've never seen children have more fun than the small actors did. Everyone was a star, from the Grinch himself down to the smallest "Who in Whoville and the kids threw themselves into their roles with an enthusiasm that was unreal. By my estimate, those same kids now are unquestionably past college age, probably working, married, and parents themselves. I can't help but wonder if they remember the grade school play and their own parts in it.

My third reason for making a fool of myself has to do with something we're all hearing and reading about these days. Holiday stress. Being a natural-born procrastinator, one who's never seemed to learn from experience, I'm definitely subject to just such stress. As I write, I'm mini-pro of myself simply because I bought my Christmas cards in October (even though I haven't started addressing them yet) and am ALMOST halfway through shopping. The tree is up and trimmed (no thanks to me).

By next week, I should be totally unglued, stressed to the max. All the advice I've been gleaming from reading about handling said stress is to take a little break. Watching a TV news special on it recently and seeing a crowd of presumably stressed-out office workers chasing each other around files and water coolers, blasting away with toy water guns gave me some pause.

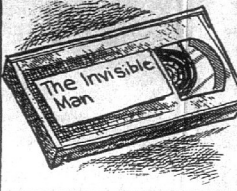
This year, I've decided that on the verge of going ballistic, I'll put on my tent-sized sweatshirt and go out for a shot of wassail. It can't hurt and it'll just help me see things in perspective. Carol Clarkin is a columnist for the Edwardsville Journal.

Carol Clarkin

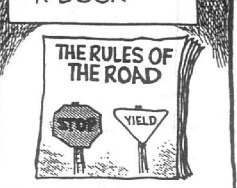


MIKE THOMPSON'S Annual

BOB KUSTRA: A VIDEO



JUDGE HEIPLE: A BOOK

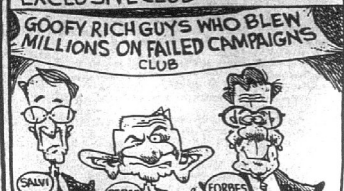


HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR ILLINOIS POLITICIANS

CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN: A BOARD GAME



AL SALVI: MEMBERSHIP TO AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB



PAUL SIMON: A NECKTIE



JIM EDGAR: A (FRIVOLOUS) SUIT



Life-and-death decisions not easy

(This column was written by Jeff Tarbell of Alton.)

My father died from cancer more than two years ago. It came suddenly. He fell sick around Thanksgiving, and just before Christmas, he was in the hospital. I remember my first visit there, how unlike himself he looked. The man I knew was gone, replaced by a slab of bloated flesh connected to tubes and machines. Most of the time, he was asleep or confused. I stopped short and cried, surrounded by the muted stench of the ICU. It was a place for crying. He seemed already gone, although he struggled on for weeks, the doctors marveling at the strength of his one remaining healthy organ, his heart.

Two doctors were responsible for his care. One wanted to treat his condition aggressively; the other, a young Asian-American, in a gentle manner that I shall never forget, quietly explained that sometimes medicine can only do so much.

My family and I crowded into a stuffy little room to decide which course to take. I hated that room. It was a dreary backdrop to a scene that had been played out for others so many times before. Now it was our turn. The lines were familiar, dejected in slow motion, unfolding with the certainty of Greek tragedy. Only this play wouldn't end. No breaks for station identification. Muffled words and nerves rubbed raw looking for options that weren't there, followed by dull fact that my father's death was simply run out.

I hated it. I hated everything that had forced him into this blind box of a place; every cigarette he'd smoked while I was growing up, every emotion he'd held tight inside. They had all conspired to end his life too soon.

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forced him into this blind box of a place; every cigarette he'd smoked while I was growing up, every emotion he'd held tight inside. They had all conspired to end his life too soon.

Each doctor came in and stated his case. They stood like two paths through a dark wood. They advised, they recommended, but the decision was ours. Strangely, it wasn't a hard one. We voted with our hearts to disconnect the tubes, turn off the respirator and let my father go quickly and quietly. There would be no late-night heroics.

The young doctor assured us that my father would not suffer; as the respirator was cycled down, a dose of painkiller would increase, arresting his breathing.

The doctor couldn't come right out and say it, but we were deciding to put my father to sleep, and the America Medical Association was offering what assistance it could. At that point, it was what everybody wanted, and it was what he would have wanted, too.

It took about two hours for my father to die. They were the longest two hours of my life. My mother held his hand the entire time. A radio at the head of the bed played soft hits; young popular songs about love and heartache. He would have preferred Benny Goodman, or maybe Sinatra. Finally a nurse came in, checked him, said, "I'm sorry for your loss," and left us to our grief.

Crying, I turned and looked out the window. I'm not sure why. Maybe to see if the world looked any different without him in it. It was a clear, cold February night. A sliver of a moon hung with the stars. I remember thinking, "Well, Pop, you're up there now."

In the end, there was no point in prolonging my father's suffering another minute longer. I still feel that way. Life is sacred, but the ways of love are more so. What our doctor prescribed by implication is only what Dr. Jack Kevorjian and others advocate openly; that in any sane, moral — and yes, religious society, the decision when to end the suffering of loved one is, and should legally be, a private one.

That stuffy little room is for family members only.

— From The Telegraph

Letters to the editor

No change is right choice

TO THE EDITOR: At times change is good. At times change isn't. Sometimes not changing is change in itself. I believe that when it comes to the upcoming mayoral election in Granite City, that not changing mayors is the change that we need.

Mayor Ron Selph was the right choice four years ago and he is the right person to lead our city into the new millennium.

For more than 15 years I have known Ron. I know the type of person he is, his background, and his beliefs. This history gives me a good insight and perspective of him and I am rock-solid certain that he is the person to continue leading our city.

For the past several years I have tried to give back to the community some of the support that it has given me, by collecting and distributing food and clothing to those that need it. Many have asked what they can do for me in return. While I do not do it for personal reward, I believe that the best thing that anyone can do for me as well as themselves is to put their support behind Mayor Ron Selph in the upcoming election in April of 1997.

God Bless and Happy Holidays!

DONALD CAUGHNOR

Movie makes a valid point

TO THE EDITOR: While stationed at the Navy Amphibious Base during World War II, at Oceanside, Calif., prior to going overseas, I had the opportunity many times to visit the Hollywood Canteen and see many of the movie stars who were there for the service men.

There I met Donna Reed (just like the girl next door), co-star of "It's a Wonderful Life," a great actress in a great movie. I danced several times with her, and she autographed my Canteen postcard, which I still have. Sheldon Leonard of the same movie was there; he was the mean bartender in the movie. I spoke with him and received his autograph. He was serving so-called drinks for the veterans.

This month's (December 1996) American Legion National magazine has a feature story on this heart warming film and the cover showing Jimmy Stewart, the star, and Donna Reed. I am also happy to see our local "Summerstage Playhouse Theatre" on Pershing

inspiration and a memorable phrase to remember: "No man is a failure who has friends".

STEVE KONKOVICH Granite City

Consumers may get option

TO THE EDITOR: Although I stepped down as a director of the Illinois Citizens Utility board eleven years ago, I am still a member concerned about fair utility rates.

And so I perked up when I read recently that Illinois utility companies are attempting to get favorable legislation in Springfield that will deal with the impending deregulation of electric rates.

You see, in the same way that we may now choose our long distance phone company, we will soon be able to choose whom we pay for our electricity. We will be able to opt out of our present utility (Illinois Power, for example), and choose to buy our electricity at cheaper rates with another utility with the power coming in over the existing transmission lines. It is like we are now doing with long distance phone bills. This wonder of technology seems to be coming and its only a matter of time.

The Illinois utilities went to Springfield to quickly get a bill through the veto session that would require the rate payer to pay for a portion of the recently-built, expensive nucle-

ar plants before he switches to another company.

The bill got nowhere, but I would suggest that Illinois Power patrons talk to their state legislators about this because it will reappear in January. They may find themselves buying unwanted shares in the \$4 billion Clinton "White Elephant" before they can pursue cheaper rates.

On another consumer issue, costs of funerals, at a board of trustees meeting of the St. Louis Planned Funeral and Memorial Society, we learned that a large corporation just purchased two Jewish funeral homes in St. Louis and discontinued the lowest price coffins.

Large corporations are buying up family funeral parlors and parlaying their investments through such cost-cutting (for themselves) efforts. The two largest Lowen (Canada) and SCI (Service Corporation International of Houston) disclosed profit margins to the SEC of 41 percent and 25 percent respectively, for last year. Good news for shareholders and investors and bad news for the consumer of the services of the funeral business.

Read the business section of the Dec. 9, Time magazine for an eye-filling story of the two big funeral company giants and how their shenanigans may affect some of us the next time we have a death in the family.

RAY HOLLMANN, Fairview Heights

We cannot care for everyone

TO THE EDITOR: Does anyone wonder about the reason for a White House directive to the Depart-

ment of Immigration allowing anyone having AIDS to immigrate into the United States? This directive defies established guidelines denying immigrants with communicable diseases access to this country.

PAUL MOHME Collinsville

Granite City Press-Record

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Republicans choose successor to Shimkus

Madison County Republicans are uniting behind an experienced employee to take over the helm of the Madison County Treasurer's Office. Members of the county's Republican Central Committee voted Monday to recommend chief deputy treasurer Wes Tucker as the replacement for treasurer John Shimkus, who was elected to Congress in November.

Tucker, 55, of Wood River, edged past two other candidates Monday, including businessman Ted Frehn, 34, of Bethalto and Doug Mueller, the 36-year-old Godfrey Township Supervisor.

Three other Republicans who had expressed interest in the office backed out of the race Monday.

Members of the committee declared Tucker the winner after casting secret ballots during a three-hour meeting at PK's Restaurant in Edwardsville.

Dr. Edward Ragsdale, chairman of the Republican Central Committee, said he would relay the recommendation to Madison County Board Chairman Rudy Papa early today.

"We liked all three candidates, but the final motion for Wes Tucker was unanimous," Ragsdale said.

"We liked all three candidates, but the final motion for Wes Tucker was unanimous. We'll submit that name to Rudy Papa and we hope that everyone here will support him."

—Edward Ragsdale
GOP chairman

"We'll submit that name to Rudy Papa and we hope that everyone here will support him."

Papa could not be reached for comment Monday night. He has said only that he will seriously consider the Republican's recommendation and will appoint a qualified candidate.

Shimkus, R-Collinsville, will resign his post as county treasurer soon to take his seat in the 20th Congressional District.

Papa must appoint a Republican to replace Shimkus, and must consider the recommendation of the Republican committee, but is not required to appoint Tucker.

Tucker thanked his fellow Republicans and shook their hands after the decision late Monday. He promised to begin

campaigning for treasurer if appointed by Papa.

"I will do my best to uphold your vote," Tucker said.

Tucker has been deputy treasurer for six years. Other positions he has held include: Public accountant for his own accounting a tax service in Wood River beginning in 1975.

Accountant with Giberson, Foutch, Webb Insurance Inc. of East Alton from 1985 to 1990.

East Alton treasurer from 1973 to 1985.

Owner, Tucker Insurance Agency, East Alton from 1975 to 1981.

General accountant, National Aviation Underwriters, St. Louis, from 1988 to 1993.

Tucker has a bachelor's degree in business.

administration with a minor in accounting from Lindenwood College in St. Charles.

Republicans hope to have a viable candidate for treasurer in the 1998 election, but said they fear Papa may appoint a weak candidate to enhance Democratic chances of recapturing the office.

—From The Telegraph



(Staff photo by JOHN FRESE)

Donation — Commander Ray Romine of the Granite City Fire Department, center, accepts a \$100 check from VFW Post 1300. The money will be used to purchase a Cairns IRIS Thermal Imaging System. The equipment will allow firemen to see heat sources such as people or hot spots through heavy smoke and even through walls, increasing speed and firefighter safety in rescues and fire fighting. Presenting the check are Post 1300 Auxiliary Treasurer Margaret Champion, left, and President LaVern Mull and Commander Terry Decker, to Romine's right. Also present to accept the donation for the department was Lynda Cowley, to Romine's left.

Task force seeks airport coordination for region

By Mark Hodapp
Staff writer

A transportation task force committee is looking to coordinate air transportation in southwestern Illinois.

The Southwestern Illinois Regional Airport Authority Task Force held its third and final scheduled meeting Monday at St. Louis Regional Airport in Bethalto.

The seven-member committee is expected to present a report to the General Assembly by Jan. 1, said committee

chairman Rep. Ron Stephens, R-Troy.

The committee is considering several options, including recommending that a regional airport authority be hired to oversee the operations at Mid-America Airport near Scott Air Force Base, Metro East Airport in St. Jacob and St. Louis Regional Airport.

All three of these airports are currently run and operated by different agencies, including private ownership at Metro East and the St. Clair County board, who is overseeing Mid-America Airport.

Stephens said he does not know what the committee will recommend.

"It's obvious to me that there are and should be some sort of relationship between the airports," he said. "We can't excuse the pun, fly blindly."

But Stephens said it is possible the committee may not make a recommendation to the General Assembly. He called the hearings "a fact finding mission."

O'Fallon Alderman Gary Graham, who is also a mem-

ber of the task force, said he believes Mid-America Airport should be overseen by people who live in Lebanon, Mascoutah, O'Fallon and Shiloh.

"We are the most impacted cities," he said.

But Graham does not believe the county's Public Building Commission should be placed with this responsibility.

Rather, Graham said he believes the people who oversee this airport should have solid business backgrounds.

"I want elected representation," he added.

County Board Chairman Joe Benken said he strongly supports a regional airport authority because it will bring more coordination to Mid-America Airport and take all politics away from its operation.

Benken pointed out that he does not believe the Public Building Commission should manage the airport because they are appointed representatives of the county board chairman.

"The issue here is control," he said. "We need a strong, independent board."

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LOCAL NEWS

911 sites may be consolidated

The Madison County Emergency Telephone Board members delayed hiring a consultant to study possibly consolidating the county's emergency 911 response centers, saying instead they would pursue "piecemeal" efforts.

There are 16 sites in the county that currently answer 911 phone calls, but some emergency officials said they believe they could get by with less.

The board, appointed by the county board chairman, oversees the system operations, with final approval by the County Board.

Two months ago, the board solicited bids and ideas from four consultants to investigate ways to save money by paring the number of answering centers. The original idea had been to study all 16 answering centers and decide which were the best to keep and which could be combined.

In one scenario, personnel answering 911 calls in Wood River and Bethalto could be combined into one operational center to handle the calls from both villages.

Police departments would remain intact, but each may be able to eliminate some staffers that strictly answer 911 calls.

But on Thursday, the board decided instead to look only at eliminating one or two answering centers.

"We could focus on just the answering points that have an interest in consolidating," said board member John Swindle.

Board members William Pierce, Highland police chief, and Terry Suhre, Granite City fire captain, agreed. Suhre said he would meet with a subcommittee of board members to discuss the options.

Dave Whipple, 911 coordinator, said the county stands to save hundreds of thousands of dollars by consolidating some answering centers.

Some of the larger answering centers, such as Alton and Granite City, handle large numbers of calls. Alton police dispatchers answered 12,874 calls in 1995.

Other smaller cities, however, take in only a few hundred calls in a year. Maryville police dispatchers, for example, answered only 856 calls in 1995. But both Alton and Maryville require the same expensive equipment to answer the calls.

The equipment costs more than \$100,000 to buy and several thousand dollars per year to maintain.

Whipple said Maryville is considering consolidating with Troy, while Glen Carbon is moving toward consolidation with Edwardsville.



Visitors — In top photo, Colonial Care Center resident Esther Michel says hello to "Cyrano," who came dressed in his holiday best. Cyrano's visit was part of an effort by the North County Obedience Training Club to visit hospitals and nursing homes to spread a little animal love to people who cannot have pets of their own.

Above right, Vivian Rowden pats Cyrano on the head during his visit with his owner, Cheryl Little, looking on. Above left, Cyrano entertains Samuel Nighohossian. At right, Alexandra Sebering pets "Pi," a Shetland belonging to Mary Spelling, who started the North County Obedience Training Club.



(Staff photos by JOHN FRESE)

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THE LAW AND YOU
By RICK REED
Attorney At Law

Frequently parents will contact this office and indicate that their child has been hurt at school. They wonder if the school district is liable for injuries sustained by the child during normal school hours. The answer to this question depends upon the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Teachers, school officials and school districts generally will be held liable for personal injuries sustained by students during school activities only if there is willful and wanton misconduct. Willful and wanton misconduct is that act intentionally done or that act taken in reckless disregard of the consequences. When teachers are exercising disciplinary and supervisory authority, they will not be subject to ordinary negligence actions.

In one recent case, a fourth grader was in a school gymnasium with the rest of his class practicing for a Christmas program. The class was dismissed from the gym and told to return to the classroom. The fourth grade teacher told the pupils to get a drink, go to the restroom, and then return to their seats in the classroom. The teacher stood in an area between the classroom and the restrooms to watch the children in both directions. One boy, who was among the first to return to the classroom, tripped and was hit in the eye with another student's pencil. The boy eventually lost sight in his eye.

The boy brought suit against the teacher and the school district alleging willful and wanton misconduct in connection with his injury. The jury returned a verdict in favor of the school district and the teacher. The plaintiff then took the case on appeal.

The Appellate Court noted that the plaintiff was unsupervised in the classroom, for a period of five to ten minutes because the teacher was in the hallway. In this case, the fourth grade teacher was standing 15 to 20 feet outside the classroom door watching as best she could both the children in the classroom and those getting water and using the restrooms. The Appellate Court felt that she could not be in both places at once and that she was merely following her normal course of conduct. The Court noted that there was no evidence of willful and wanton misconduct on the part of the defendants since the teacher cannot be expected to supervise each and every child at all times while in school.

RICK REED
Attorney At Law

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SIUE offering dance classes

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville will offer eight non-credit courses in dance in eight- and six-week sections during the spring semester. Classes are taught by Pauline Cavallie in the Vadalabene Center dance studio.

Courses include Ballroom Dance — Levels I, II and III; Basically Ballroom Dance; Country and Western Dance; Imperial and West Coast Swing; Imperial Swing; and Latin Dance. Classes begin in January and continue into March for the eight-week sections. Classes for the six-week sections are scheduled in March and April.

Classes will not meet Jan. 20, March 10-16 and March 30.

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Sharing hats, combs helps spread head lice

When your kids share hats, combs or brushes with their school friends, they may get something extra in the bargain.

"When children in school are all together and sharing, that's when head lice tend to spread," said Dr. Christina Sarchet, a pediatrician on staff at St. Anthony's Health Center, Alton.

So far this year, Sarchet hasn't seen a large number of small patients with head lice, but with the school year rolling along, the number will probably rise.

Head lice are gray bugs about one-sixteenth of an inch long that live on human beings. Their eggs, called nits, are white and firmly attached to the base of the hair shaft.

Unlike dandruff, nits cannot be shaken off. Head lice move very quickly and are spread when people use the hat, comb or brush of an infected person, or by very close contact, such as a headrest.

"The bugs can't jump a foot from one person to another," Sarchet said. "But siblings who share a bed or roll around jostling each other may spread them."

It's no disgrace if your kids are sent home from school with lice, she said. "Anybody can get them, even if you're extremely clean. It's not a huge deal, but kids do pass them around."

The first line of defense is to teach children not to wear other kids' hats and to not use anyone else's comb or brush.

Symptoms include itching and sometimes a

red rash on the scalp. Infestation tends to be heaviest at the nape of the neck.

If your child does get head lice, "it's fairly simple to get rid of them," Sarchet said.

The first step is to shampoo the hair with anti-lice shampoo such as Nix or Rid, which can be bought over the counter. Sarchet suggest applying about 2 ounces of shampoo to wet hair and working up a lather. Scrub the hair and scalp for 10 minutes, then towel dry. This routine should kill all adult lice and nits, but Sarchet recommends a second treatment in seven days in case any nits survived.

The second step involves cleaning the infected child's surroundings. Lice can't live more than three days away from the human body. Sweep or vacuum floors, soak combs and brushes for one hour in water mixed with anti-lice shampoo, and wash in hot water any sheets, blankets and pillowcases used.

Items that can't be washed, such as hats and stuffed animals, can be set aside in a plastic bag for three weeks. Anti-lice sprays or fumigation are not necessary.

Finally, do a head count. Check the heads of everyone else in the house and if anyone has a rash, sores or itching, they should be treated even if lice or nits are not seen.

Children can usually return to school after one treatment to kill lice and nits, but some schools will not allow them back until the nits are removed.

From the Telegraph



Wanda Kite, left, and Tammy Kite, certified nurse assistants at Colonial Care Center in Granite City, help resident Flossie Bono with her physical therapy.

Nurse assistants enjoy work

Helping others is their job

Wanda Kite and Tammy Kite share something besides their last name and their hometown, Granite City.

They also share the occupation, certified nurse assistant and physical rehabilitation assistant, and work at the same place, Colonial Care Center, Granite City.

Both sisters are 1995 graduates of Belleville Area College's Certified Nurse Assistant program, which they completed at the college's Granite City Campus. Both women had worked at Colonial Care Center prior to enrolling in the program. Wanda, 28, was in housekeeping and Tammy, 25, was a cook.

They said they enjoyed working with older people and they wanted to do more. The program taught them the skills they need to care for residents on a daily basis.

"We help residents with all aspects of their daily care: feeding, bathing, dressing, helping them get in and out of bed," Tammy said.

Both women said the aspect of the CNA program that they appreciated the most were the practical insights of instructor Judy Bravin.

"She'd been there. She really knows how to approach situations from her own practical experience. It's not just some instructor standing up there, telling you what may

or may not happen," Wanda said.

Both women agree that it takes a certain type or person to work in a nursing home.

"I've been here two years and I've seen a lot of girls who come in but don't stay long," Tammy said. "They're not prepared for it."

Wanda and Tammy both said they enjoy talking with the residents. And they know the residents enjoy it also.

"Sometimes, if you just see someone in the hall and say 'hi' or just smile, that can make their day," Tammy said.

Both women said they enjoy what they do now but they also have other career aspirations.

Tammy wants to be a paramedic in Granite City, while Wanda would like to become an obstetrics nurse. In fact, both women are returning to BAC in the spring semester to begin work on their respective goals.

They will continue to work at the nursing home.

After they're used to long days.

"It's not unusual for us to work a double shift," Tammy said.

For more information on the CNA program call program coordinator Judy Bravin at (618) 931-0600, extension 685. Spring semester classes begin Jan. 11.

Union will protest job cutbacks

WOOD RIVER — Out of concern for patient care, a union said it will protest the elimination of 33 jobs at Wood River Township Hospital.

"We're shocked by the layoffs," said Gail Lamer, president of hospital Local 168 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. "The job cuts will affect every department where employees deal with patient care."

The hospital will terminate 33 employees effective Jan. 9 because of a dwindling number of patients. "We're trying to match employment to the patient load," board chairman Brad Pulsaski said Wednesday.

The union sent a memorandum to hospital administration "to negotiate over the impact of the layoffs," said Lamer, whose union represents 21 of the 33 people who will lose their jobs.

"We are going to actively protest the job reductions out of concern for the patients," said Lamer, a 40-year employee and supervisor of the central supply department.

The job reductions could save an estimated \$1 million a year at the hospital where the number of patients averages about 35 people a day, Pulsaski said.

More than 14 registered nurses, supply personnel, laboratory and X-ray technicians and dietary workers were notified Monday that their jobs would be terminated in 30 days.

Forty-three of 46 nurses at the hospital joined the AFSCME union in September for job security, several employees told The Telegraph.

Jackie Etkin is one of four part-time registered nurses who will be laid off in the intensive care unit. "I went to work at Wood River hospital when I was 18 years old. I've been a dedicated employee for 18 years. It's sad that I'll lose my job."

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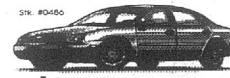


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LOCAL NEWS

•TIF

(Continued from Page 1A)

have not been set in stone, but presented a map that included more than 600 acres of property along Illinois 3 between Rock Road and Chain of Rocks Road. Parcels that are already developed, such as the Northgate Industrial Park, Wal-Mart, A.O. Smith and the car dealerships, would be excluded from the TIF, Orbals said.

He said the proposed TIF would be established under the "Industrial Jobs Recovery Act." To qualify under the act, the city must have an unemployment rate at least one point higher than the national average for four consecutive years.

The city met the requirement for the last three, and a half years and is on target to meet it again, Orbals said.

The act requires all property in the district be zoned industrial, although related commercial uses would be permitted, Orbals said.

Included in the boundaries is 317 acres of farm land owned by George Willard. Selph said Willard recently signed a petition to have his property annexed into the city.

By establishing a TIF district, the city can assist developers with infrastructure costs and recoup its investment in a fraction of the time it would take to recover expenses without the TIF, said Dan Brown, economic development director for the city.

For example, an existing business in the city is contemplating a \$12 million project including a \$3 million building and about \$2 million in infrastructure improvements — on property just north of A.O. Smith. Under normal conditions the same construction would result in about \$82,500 annually in property taxes, of which the city would receive

about \$12,375. At that rate, the city could recoup a \$400,000 investment in infrastructure in about 32 years.

But with the TIF, the city would receive all of the property taxes resulting from the new building. It would take less than five years to recover \$400,000 at a rate of \$82,500 annually.

"Competition among cities to attract retail and industrial developments is fierce," Brown said. "Without infrastructure in place, industry doesn't want to commit to a site. And without a tenant signed up, developers are reluctant to spend money on infrastructure. It's the chicken and the egg dilemma."

The city's willingness to invest in infrastructure will result in more good-paying jobs and increased development, Brown said.

Orbals noted that property must be located within city boundaries to be included in the TIF district.

While there has been some discussion in recent months about the possibility that Granite City annex part of the port, such annexation would require the consent of officials in Madison, Venice and Venice Township.

Madison Mayor John Bellico — who also serves as a port commissioner — said Wednesday he knows nothing about plans by Granite City to annex port property except for what he has read in the newspaper.

'Sooner the better'

Time about up to send those holiday packages

The countdown for shipping holiday packages is on.

Regardless of how or where your boxes and cards are going, the "when" issue is clear: Send them soon.

This week is critical, United Parcel Service manager Vito Viviano in Bethalto said. Monday was the busiest volume day for parcel post throughout the country.

"If you're shipping from here to the West Coast, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out they should (have gone out) Monday to get there for Christmas," he said.

Overnight services are available to most areas in the continental United States, but Alaska, Europe and Hawaii require air delivery, which is not available anywhere after Sunday.

"We will try to make sure everyone's Christmas packages get there on time, but we won't be accepting next-day air service on Dec. 23," Viviano said. "We just couldn't handle it."

Sue Schumacher, acting postmaster at Alton's main post office, said she will have

a small staff working Christmas Day for the last-minute bundles that require special delivery, but she encourages everyone to get their gifts out now.

"It normally takes anywhere from five to seven days for parcel post, but we're getting into the last leg before Christmas, so the sooner, the better," she said.

Even if everyone's gifts got in the mail in plenty of time for Christmas, Schumacher said there are always a few boxes that can't be delivered.

"Please pack properly," she said. "People use those soft boxes you get at the store when you buy clothes or they stuff too much into a small box. Choose a sturdy box, and cushion your items well."

Using an incorrect address is the most common mistake people make, so it's best to include a phone number with shipping information.

"That really helps. Instead of having to send it all the way back to the sender, we can just

make a call for a good delivery," Viviano said.

Also use permanent markers on the address to prevent streaking if the label gets wet, and put an extra mailing label inside the box for added security.

If you're sending something valuable, take extra precautions. For a small fee, the U.S. Postal Service offers insurance for items valued up to \$500, as long as it's mailed first class, priority or parcel post.

For more pricey packages, Schumacher advised sending it registered mail. "Registered mail is insured up to \$25,000, and it's tracked all the way along the route."

Although every holiday seems to bring something interesting, Schumacher said a Christmas gift mailed from Chicago to Effingham through the post office in which she worked years ago is the most memorable.

•Crime

(Continued from Page 1A)

parking lot, used racial slurs and damaged the women's car.

Both Cave and Thomas were charged with committing a hate crime and criminal damage to property in warrants issued Monday.

Bond on the warrants was set at \$15,000 each. Cave posted \$15,000 cash and was released.

Cave had been arrested at 9:25 a.m. Thursday on a felony warrant issued Tuesday for possession of cannabis. He posted \$1,500 cash bond on that warrant and was released.

He is alleged to have possessed more than 30 but less than 500 grams of marijuana in an Oct. 19 incident.

Police Chief Dave Ruebhausen said Cave possessed a quarter of a pound of marijuana Oct. 19 when he was being arrested on an outstanding warrant charging him with violating a protection order.

The hate crime charges against Cave and Thomas are the result of the second case in as many weeks involving hate crimes in Granite City.

On Dec. 3, Charleston Hilton Sr., 17, a black man from Venice, was charged with a hate crime for allegedly harassing a white man in Jack-in-the-Box on Nameoki Road. Two black teens who were with Hilton were charged as juveniles.



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PET OF THE WEEK

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With the adoption cats receive feline leukemia and F.I.V. test, spay or neutering, FVRCP leukemia shot and wormed. Call the A.P.A. at 931-7030 or visit the shelter at 5000 Old Alton Rd., Granite City. Adoption hours are 9-2, closed on holidays.

TERA
Call 931-7030 for an interview or visit the shelter at 5000 Old Alton Rd.
Photo By Susan Judd

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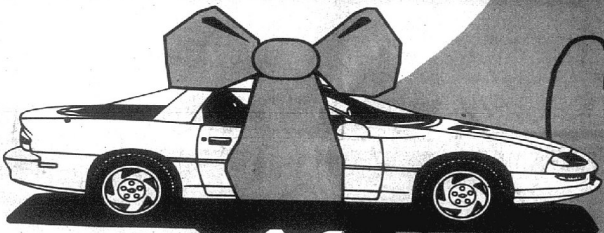
The reason everyone on your gift-giving list will be thrilled to receive Ameritech Cellular Service is that it's the holiday surprise that lasts all year! When you give someone Ameritech Cellular Service, you're giving them safety, security and a way to stay in touch on every occasion. What a thoughtful gift!

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Huge discounts and the lowest prices of the year at Jack Schmitt Chevy could make this your best holiday ever. But Santa comes just once a year, so don't wait.

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If you don't know where to get the best deal on a car, truck or van, you don't know Jack Schmitt.

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Sports

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Manual shows another gear in Shootout

Peoria Manual High School did the state proud when it beat perennial national power Oak Hill Academy 74-63 in the marquee game of the Coca-Cola/KMOX Shootout at Kiel Center in St. Louis.

The Rams' convincing victory over the Mouth of Wilson (Va.) juggernaut again demonstrated the strength of Illinois high school boys basketball on a national scale. I remember there was a time when Illinois high school-bred players outnumbered those of any other state on the basketball rosters of Big Eight Conference teams—even though the state didn't have a team in that conference, which, of course, is now the Big 12.

Manual coach Wayne McClain couldn't hide his pride after his team's victory in a battle of national powers—Oak Hill came in at No. 2 and Manual at No. 3. At the same time, he is cautiously optimistic as the Rams shoot for an unprecedented fourth straight Illinois state championship.

"The state championship is our long-range goal," says McClain, who has coached the Rams to the last three state titles after taking over the legendary Dick Van Scoy, Illinois' all-time winningest coach. "There are a lot of good teams throughout the state, including some in our area and at least five or six in the Chicago area."

Two of those teams McClain mentioned by name were East Peoria and Harvey Thornton, which also were on display in the Shootout. East Peoria beat DeSmet 46-24, and Thornton dismantled CBC 72-55 in the Shootout.

You have to have a lot of breaks and get lucky sometimes," McClain said of winning a state championship. The victory over Oak Hill extended Manual's winning streak to 34 games. But the streak came to an end Saturday when the Rams traveled to Chicago Carver and fell 91-85 in overtime.

Asked if he treasures the opportunity of winning a fourth straight title and making state history, McClain said: "At the time it happens, sometimes you don't appreciate it as much. As time goes along, you become more appreciative of the accomplishments."

Unlike other states, highly competitive Illinois doesn't have a lot of multi-winning boys basketball, much less a team winning three straight. The Rams tied East Lincoln's state record last year when they won their third straight title.

Lincoln won three in a row from 1987-89 during the LaPhonso Ellis-Cuozzo Martin era.

"I think (Lincoln coach) Bennie Lewis is the best-kept secret in the state," McClain says.

A 1972 graduate of Manual, McClain played on the Rams' fourth-place state team under Van Scoy in 1972. He served as a volunteer assistant at his alma mater for five years and another 12 as a paid assistant under Van Scoy before taking over the program in 1994.

What has made McClain's success at Manual even more enjoyable is that his son, Sergio, has been an integral part of the Rams' joyride. The powerfully built Sergio has been a starter for the Rams since his freshman year, meaning he could end his prep career as a member of four straight state championship teams.

"I wish every father and son could experience the relationship we've had on and off the court," the elder McClain says. "With each passing game, it saddens me knowing that he won't be on the team next year."

McClain won't have far to go to watch his son play college ball. Sergio and teammate Marcus Griffin have signed letters of intent to attend the University of Illinois next fall.

"It was his decision to go to Illinois," the elder McClain says. "He's 18 years old, and it was nice to put him in a situation where he was in control of his life. We're all satisfied."

Holmes closing in on Cougars' scoring mark

By Brian Bretsch
Staff writer

Sometime after the Christmas break, the Jason Holmes watch at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville will begin.

The senior sharpshooter is closing in on a record that has stood for almost 20 years at SIUE.

Holmes entered his final season for the Cougars needing 303 points to surpass Kellie Peebles as the school's all-time leading scorer in men's basketball. Peebles set the record of 1,224 points from 1975-79.

Holmes has played in six of the Cougars' seven games this season and scored 121 points. His magic number is 18.

His magic number is 18. He's never come in here or we've never said anything on the floor about it. I've (See HOLMES, Page 3B)

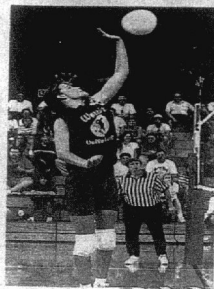
gars host Quincy tonight and Missouri-St. Louis on Saturday. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

SIUE coach Jack Margenthaler said Holmes has kept a level head in his run for the record. The senior guard had 12 points as the Cougars improved to 6-1 with a 95-70 win over Greenville on Saturday.

"I don't think it has affected his game at all," Margenthaler said. "To be real honest, Jason and I have never talked about it. He's never come in here or we've never said anything on the floor about it. I've (See HOLMES, Page 3B)



Holmes



Former GCHS standout Jennifer Willis is working toward a scholarship with Illinois State University after joining the team as a walk-on this season.

Willis looks to spring for spot with Redbirds

By Brian L. Jones
Correspondent

Spring volleyball is not recognized as an official season on the NCAA collegiate level. But Illinois State University's four spring exhibition tournaments for 1997 will be of vital importance to Granite City native Jennifer Willis. ISU just completed its ninth NCAA national tournament appearance in the fall season, going 29-6 after a second-round loss of 14-16, 14-16, 3-15, on Dec. 7 to the University of Florida.

Willis was not an integral part of the experience as a walk-on freshman. In fact, the entire season was a humble adjustment for the former GCHS star who made first team All-Area as a prep senior in 1995. But it was not an unexpected rookie sidown for Willis, especially since the Redbirds had three senior frontcourt hitters this year.

One of them was All-District 1 middle blocker Andi Hardwick, who led the Redbirds with 557 kills and 130 block assists. Willis was among four non-scholarship players—three of them freshmen—in the otherwise experienced 15-woman ISU program. She ranked as the 13th player on the team, but only 12 made the varsity roster.

Jennifer and (freshman) Kelly Stevens were our two (walk-on) practice players, so they didn't dress for any varsity matches," said fourth-year ISU assistant coach Mary Tenter. "The reason for that is they're frontcourt hitters. It's easier for a walk-on at this level to come in and play the (See WILLIS, Page 3B)

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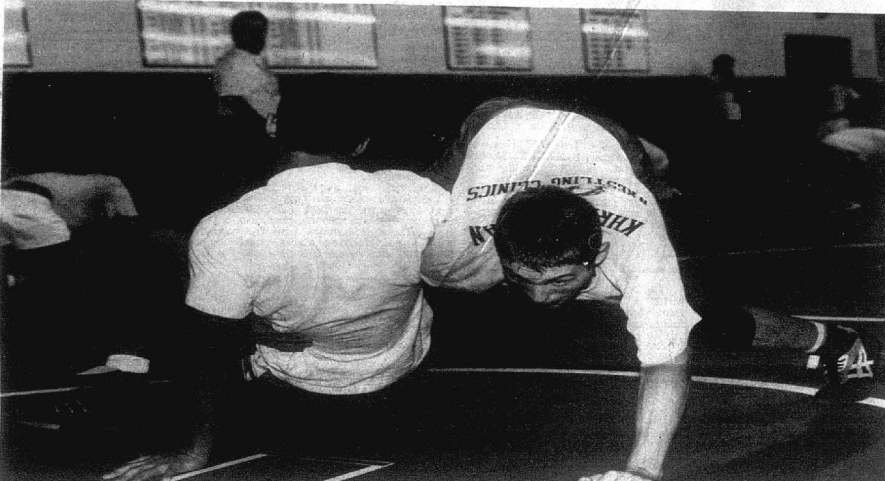
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GCHS wrestlers John Kelly (right) and Dave Thompson tangle in a practice bout. The Warriors will wrestle

Belleville West in a Southwestern Conference match tonight.

Sibling rivalry

Garlands guide Warriors, Maroons into mat battle

By Brian L. Jones
Correspondent

It's not quite the Civil War, but the story line is brother against brother.

The undefeated Granite City Warriors (10-0) lock horns today with Belleville West (2-2) in a Western Conference wrestling showdown at the West High School gymnasium.

GCHS is coached by Mike Garland, now in his 10th season with a 288-34-1 dual-match

record, including 126 consecutive regular-season wins since November 1992. West is coached by his brother Steve Garland, who guided the Maroons to a 15-3 record last season.

"It's a conference between a family match, so that's always big," said Mike Garland, who has another brother, former GCHS assistant Greg Garland, coaching at Althoff.

Althoff will join the Warriors



M. Garland



S. Garland

Book provides golfers broad course in game

By Scott Marlon
Staff writer

From inception to publication, it took Dan Polites more than two years to complete his first book, "Golf for Rookies." But for Polites, a PGA teaching professional, it was a labor of love.

Polites, owner/operator of DP Golf Center in O'Fallon, got the idea for the self-published book through numerous private lessons with clients.

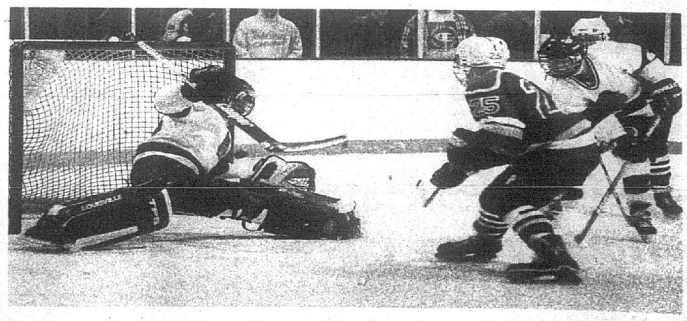
"I started it in October 1994," Polites said. "So many people came to me to take lessons (and) asked if there were any good beginners' books or videos. I would recommend, and I couldn't find many."

"There are a lot of things that (experienced) golfers take for granted, but beginners

need to know—things like rules, etiquette and how to keep score. Being a teaching professional, the last thing I want is for people to embarrass themselves on the course because of a simple etiquette thing, and then quit the game because of it."

Polites got some expert assistance in preparing the book. "I worked with John Bloyer Jr., a master photographer from O'Fallon," he said. "We got together for three photo shoots. Collin Bakke (from Bakke Graphic Design in Belleville) helped with the design, photo scanning and computer videos. I would recommend, and I couldn't find many."

"There are a lot of things that (experienced) golfers take for granted, but beginners



GCHS goalie Tony Evans sprawls to make a save. The Warriors will take on Lafayette in their next game Saturday at Chesterfield, Mo.

(Staff photo by JOHN FRESSE)

SPORTS

Prep basketball

BELLEVILLE EAST LANCERS

December
17 at Althoff 7:45 p.m.
20 Granite City 7:45 p.m.
21 at Belleville West 8 p.m.
26-28 Collinsville Tournament TBA

January
4 Edwardsville 7:45 p.m.
10 Collinsville 7:45 p.m.
14 East St. Louis 7:45 p.m.
21 Belleville Shootout 6:15 p.m.
21-25 Belleville E. Invitational TBA
21-25 7:45 p.m.

February
1 ESL Lincoln 7:45 p.m.
7 at Granite City 7:45 p.m.
14 at Edwardsville 7:45 p.m.
21 at Collinsville 7:45 p.m.
22 Belleville West 7:45 p.m.
28 at East St. Louis 7:45 p.m.

BELLEVILLE WEST MAROONS

December
30 at Alton 6:15 p.m.
21 Belleville East 5 p.m.
26-28 Centralia Tournament TBA

January
4 at Granite City 6:15 p.m.
10 at Edwardsville 6:15 p.m.
14 at Alton 6:15 p.m.
17 at O'Fallon 6:15 p.m.
18 at Cahokia 6:15 p.m.
18 at Collinsville 6:15 p.m.
21-25 Belleville E. Invitational TBA
31 at ESL Lincoln 6:15 p.m.

February
1 at East St. Louis 6:15 p.m.
7 Alton 6:15 p.m.
14 Granite City 6:15 p.m.
18 at Althoff 6:15 p.m.
21 Edwardsville 6:15 p.m.
22 at Belleville East 6:15 p.m.
28 Collinsville 6:15 p.m.

COLLINSVILLE KAHOKS

December
17 at East St. Louis 6:15 p.m.

BELLEVILLE EAST LANCERS

December
20 ESL Lincoln 6:15 p.m.
26-28 Collinsville Tournament TBA

January
4 Alton 6:15 p.m.
10 at Belleville East 6:15 p.m.
11 Beaumont 6:15 p.m.
18 Belleville West 6:15 p.m.
25 Hazelet West 6:15 p.m.
31 East St. Louis 6:15 p.m.

February
1 Edwardsville 6:15 p.m.
7 at ESL Lincoln 6:15 p.m.
14 at Alton 6:15 p.m.
15 Quincy 6:15 p.m.
21 Belleville East 6:15 p.m.
22 Granite City 6:15 p.m.
28 at Belleville West 6:15 p.m.

EAST ST. LOUIS FLYERS

December
30 Edwardsville 6:15 p.m.
26-28 Centralia Tournament TBA

January
4 at ESL Lincoln 6:15 p.m.
10 Granite City 6:15 p.m.
11 Highland Shootout 8:15 p.m.
14 at Belleville East 6:15 p.m.
18 at Alton 6:15 p.m.
24 at Alton 6:15 p.m.
31 at Collinsville 6:15 p.m.

February
1 Belleville West 6:15 p.m.
7 at Edwardsville 6:15 p.m.
11 at Venice 6:15 p.m.
14 ESL Lincoln 6:15 p.m.
21 at Granite City 6:15 p.m.
21 at Belleville East 6:15 p.m.
28 Belleville East 6:15 p.m.

EDWARDSVILLE TIGERS

December
17 at East St. Louis 6:15 p.m.

CHARLESTON TOURNAAMENT

January
4 at Belleville East 6:15 p.m.
10 Belleville West 6:15 p.m.
17 at ESL Lincoln 6:15 p.m.
18 Alton 6:15 p.m.
22-25 Salem Invitational TBA
31 Granite City 6:15 p.m.

February
1 at Collinsville 6:15 p.m.
4 at Civic Memorial 6:15 p.m.
7 East St. Louis 6:15 p.m.
11 Highland 6:15 p.m.
14 Belleville East 6:15 p.m.
21 at Belleville West 6:15 p.m.
22 ESL Lincoln 6:15 p.m.
25 Triad 6:15 p.m.
28 at Alton 6:15 p.m.

GRANITE CITY WARRIORS

December
30 at Belleville East 6:15 p.m.
21 Jerseyville 6:15 p.m.
26 Collinsville Tournament TBA

January
4 Belleville West 6:15 p.m.
7 at Civic Memorial 6:15 p.m.
18 McCluer North 6:15 p.m.
18 at ESL Lincoln 6:15 p.m.
22-25 Salem Invitational TBA
31 at Edwardsville 6:15 p.m.

February
1 at Alton 6:15 p.m.
7 at Belleville East 6:15 p.m.
14 at Belleville West 6:15 p.m.
18 McCluer North 6:15 p.m.
21 at East St. Louis 6:15 p.m.
22 at Collinsville 6:15 p.m.
28 ESL Lincoln 6:15 p.m.

March 4-7: Regional Tournament
March 11-14: Sectional Tournament
March 18-21: State Tournament

Journal Writers' Poll Boys Basketball

LARGE SCHOOLS

1. DeSmet (5-1).....59
2. CBC (4-2).....54
3. Belleville East (3-1).....46
4. Parkway Central (6-0).....41
5. Vashon (4-1).....39
6. Riverview Gardens (2-1).....25
7. Hazelwood East (4-1).....23
8. Edwardsville (2-0).....18
9. Francis Howell (3-3).....11
10. Lafayette (5-0).....7

Also receiving votes: Parkway West (4-1), Mascoutah (3-0) and Fort Zumwalt South (4-2).

SMALL SCHOOLS

1. John Burroughs (6-0).....59
2. Gibault (3-0).....46
3. South County Tech (6-0).....41
4. Rosary (3-0).....40
5. Columbia (4-1).....35
6. Padua (3-1).....33
7. Madison (6-0).....31
8. Lutheran North (3-3).....16
9. Lutheran South (4-2).....15
10. Venice (2-1).....8

Also receiving votes: St. Charles (4-2), Macomb East Lutheran (5-1) and Bayless.

Journal Writers' Poll Girls Basketball

LARGE SCHOOLS

1. St. Joseph's (2-0).....56
2. Gateway Tech (4-0).....55
3. Norix Hall (NA).....45
4. Lincoln (5-0).....41
5. Pattonville (5-0).....40
6. Francis Howell N. (4-1).....25
7. Kirkwood (5-0).....21
8. Belleville East (5-1).....20
9. O'Fallon (6-0).....18
10. Troy (5-0).....7

Also receiving votes: Cor Jesu, Belleville West, Parkway South, Ft. Zumwalt North.

SMALL SCHOOLS

1. Rosary (5-0).....60
2. (tie) John Burroughs (NA).....48
3. (tie) Wellston (4-0).....48
4. Lutheran North (4-0).....40
5. Principia (8-1).....31
6. Columbia (7-1).....26
7. Duchesne (3-1).....25
8. Lutheran St. Charles (6-0).....18
9. Windsor (5-0).....10
10. (tie) Visitation (2-0).....9
10. (tie) Red Bud (5-2).....9

Also receiving votes: Villa Duchesne, St. Charles, Incarnate Word, Althoff.

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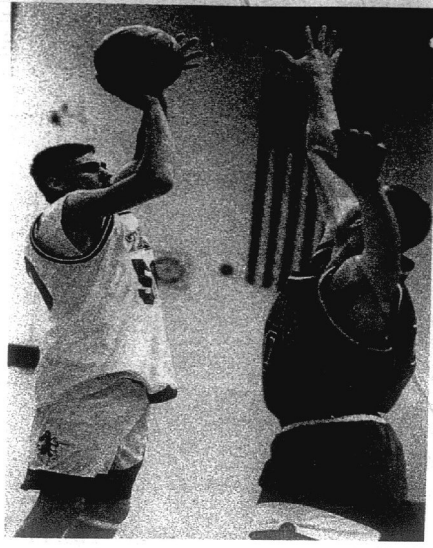
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(Photo by BRADY BRUHN)

Granite City's Dustin Brewer defends a shot by Sean Carver of Triad.

Lancers receive top seed in Collinsville tourney

By Brian Bretsch

Staff writer

The pairings have been released for the 13th annual Collinsville/Schnucks Holiday Classic, which is set for Dec. 26-28 at Yergl Fletcher Gymnasium.

Belleville East (3-1) enters as the top-seeded team in the 16-team field. The Lancers lost only one starter from a team that made it to the Elite Eight a year ago.

The Lancers, who will play Springfield Southeast in the first round of the tournament, are led by the senior tandem of guard Clint Sizemore and forward Erick Greene. Both players are averaging 18 points a contest for East. The Lancers' only loss of the season came against Minneapolis (Minn.) North at the Coca-Cola/KMOX Shootout last week. The Polars were ranked 17th in the nation in the latest USA Today prep basketball poll.

Jacksonville (5-0), which defeated Collinsville in the final game of the Crimsoms'

round-robin tournament last month, earned the second seed. Returning for the Crimsoms are guards Justin Six and Chad Tobin. Terrance Jeffries, a forward, is averaging 14 points a game, while 6-foot-9 newcomer Marty Perry adds scoring and rebounding.

The Crimsoms face Chicago Crane in a first-round game. The third-seeded Peoria Lions are two-time champions of Classic, winning back-to-back titles in 1993-1994. The Lions (3-1) are led by forward Terrance Rice, Bobby Anderson and Jerrence Howard. Former standout A.J. Guyton is playing for Bobby Knight at Indiana University. The Lions open against Granite City.

The automatic seed for Collinsville was No. 4 this season. The youthful Kahoks (4-4) are led by Shawn Moore and Matt Parker and will open against Decatur MacArthur. The remaining teams in the tournament are Madison, Springfield Sacred Heart-Griffin, Quincy, O'Fallon, East St. Louis Lincoln, Chatham Glenwood, Triad and Urbana.

Thirteenth Annual Collinsville-Schnucks Holiday Classic

First Round, Thursday, Dec. 26
Game 1: Madison vs. Springfield Sacred Heart-Griffin 9 a.m.
Game 2: Peoria vs. Granite City 10:30 a.m.
Game 3: Quincy vs. O'Fallon 1 p.m.
Game 4: Jacksonville vs. Chicago Crane 2:30 p.m.
Game 5: East St. Louis Lincoln vs. Chatham Glenwood 4 a.m.
Game 6: Belleville East vs. Springfield Southeast 7 p.m.
Game 7: Collinsville vs. Decatur MacArthur 8:30 p.m.
Game 8: Urbana vs. Triad 10 p.m.
Seeds: No. 1: Belleville East; No. 2: Jacksonville; No. 3: Peoria; No. 4: Collinsville.

Second Round

Friday, Dec. 27
Game 9: Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2, 9 a.m.; Game 10: Loser Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4, 10:30 a.m.; Game 11: Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2, 1 p.m.; Game 12: Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4, 2:30 p.m.; Game 13: Loser Game 5 vs. Loser Game 6, 4 p.m.; Game 14: Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6, 7 p.m.; Game 15: Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8, 8:30 p.m.; Game 16: Loser Game 7 vs. Loser Game 8, 10 p.m.

Third Round

Saturday, Dec. 28
Game 17: Consolation semifinal, Winner Game 9 vs. Winner Game 10, 9 a.m.; Game 18: Consolation semifinal, Winner Game 13 vs. Winner Game 16, 10:30 p.m.; Game 19: Championship semifinal, Winner Game 11 vs. Winner Game 12, 1 p.m.; Game 20: Championship semifinal, Winner Game 14 vs. Winner Game 15, 2:30 p.m.; Game 21: Consolation title game - Winner Game 17 vs. Winner Game 18, 4 p.m.; Game 22: Third-place game - Loser Game 19 vs. Loser Game 20, 7 p.m.; Game 23: Championship game - Winner Game 19 vs. Winner Game 20, 8:30 p.m.

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Boys basketball tournament
The annual KMOX Memorial Collegian Boys Basketball Tournament will be held Dec. 29-31. There are divisions for fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth-grade teams, with a three-game minimum. For more information, call Joe at (314) 849-0498 or Bryan at (314) 291-3521.

BAC soccer clinic
Belleville Area College will hold a winter soccer clinic from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 23 at BAC's intramural gym. The clinic is for players ages 10-18; limited space is available. Instructors are Larry Petri (head coach at BAC), Chad Lignout (assistant coach at Phil Aleman (head coach at Belleville East), Bill Houck (head coach at Belleville West), Dave Stosberg (head coach at Althoff) and John Van Buskirk (Indiana University graduate and current professional). For more information, call the BAC athletic department at 235-2700, extension 271.

"RJ" Krause All-Stars
The "RJ" Krause All-Stars Sports Club of East St. Louis is seeking basketball games and tournaments for boys and girls teams in grades 3-10. The club also needs sports equipment, uniforms, cheerleading outfits, used basketball shoes, sports magazines, books, games or trading cards. For more information, call Krause at 398-1201.

Winter baseball camps

FCA Sports Camps and

Belleville Area College coach will hold winter hitting and pitching camps at the BAC campus. Sessions are available at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Dec. 26-28 and 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 5-7. Hitting camps are \$65 per session and pitching camps are \$45. For a registration sheet, call 235-2700, extension 371 or (314) 487-2768.

All-star tryouts
The St. Louis International Youth Baseball Association will select an all-star team to play baseball in Australia in March 1997. The team is open to boys born March 30, 1985, or later. For more information, call Al Bond at (314) 445-3032.

Kings Point tennis
The Kings Point Junior Holiday Tennis Tournament will be more by calling the Kiel Center Racquet Club in Belleville. TheUSTA-sanctioned tourney for boys and girls 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 singles as well as 14 and 18 doubles. The entry fee is \$15 for singles and \$18 per doubles team. The entry deadline is 9 a.m. on Dec. 28. For more information, call 277-7715.

Soccer sign-ups
The Fenton Athletic Association will hold spring soccer league signups from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 21 at Henderson Park in Fenton. The league is for boys in grades K-12 and girls in grades K-8, and it runs from March to May. For more information, call Rich Walton at 225-7517.

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Golf

(Continued from Page 18)

"This is exciting because I feel this book really fills a void. It took longer than I expected, but I wanted to make sure it was a quality product."

After a foreword by PGA golfer Jerry Haas, Polites' book has nine chapters: "The Game of Golf and What It Is," "Pre-Swing Fundamentals," "The Golf Swing with Woods," "Drills to Improve your Golf Swing," "Short Game Fundamentals and Strategy," "The Do's and Don'ts in Playing Golf," "The Rules of the Game" and "How to Get Started in Golf."

"The response has been overwhelming," Polites said. "People have more talent than they think. They can do well once they get a game plan."

"This book is simple reading. Golf is a difficult sport — there's no kidding about that — but sometimes we overcomplicate things."

"Golf for Rookies" is \$19.95 and is available at DP Golf Center, Clinton Hill Golf Country Club in Belleville, Stonecroft Golf Course in Caseyville, Governors Run Golf & Country Club in Carlyle, Fox Creek Golf Course in Edwardsville and at Golf USA and Golf Discount stores.

Holmes

(Continued from Page 18)

approached our basketball team with it early in the season only from the respect that I said the press is going to pick up on it and there probably will be a countdown. I was just trying to give our team an idea of what to expect."

Through his first six games, Holmes is averaging 20 points a contest. The one game he did miss this season was because of the flu and in his first game back in the lineup he wasn't exactly 100 percent and scored just 12 points.

"He has been right where I expected," Margenthaler said of Holmes' scoring average. "Right now physically, he is behind a little. We had him back on the floor last Saturday night in a halftime where we could have probably not used him, but we felt like he needed to start playing because he was out almost 10 days with the flu."

It was strange for Margenthaler not to be able to pencil in Holmes as one of his starters last week. Holmes has been one of the last four years.

It was also difficult not being able to pencil in a player who is converting 91 percent of his free throws and 41 percent of his shots from the field.

"Jason's missing the other

day was his first in 80-some halfgames here at SIUE that he has missed," Margenthaler said. "He had never missed a regular-season halfgame. He's the one you don't suspect will be hurt or be sick. He had been fortunate to be with us every time. We do count on him to be on the floor and give us the best of his ability."

That "ability" is something that Holmes is constantly working on. When Margenthaler recruited Holmes four years ago from New Castle, Ind., he knew Holmes could score points in bunches. He just thought it would take Holmes some time to adjust to Division II.

It didn't. Holmes stepped right in and started contributing almost immediately.

"Jason is an outstanding offensive player, there is no question about it," Margenthaler said. "What does the one thing that is so difficult to teach. He's got terrific movement without the basketball, away from the ball. He knows how to read defenses. He knows how to get open."

"He has got a picture-perfect shot. He works awfully hard in his shooting and playing. He has got a shooting routine that he does every day of the year. He is very conscious about his shooting and scoring."

JV

(Continued from Page 18)

Lofink, who started the season on the varsity level, pinned all three opponents and has yet to lose a JV wrestling match. He is 6-0 this year. Courtney, who also has some varsity action, won his first two tournament decisions by scores of 15-9 and 15-6. He got an injury default victory in the final and is now 4-3 on the JV season.

Hale is now 6-0, with most of his early victories at the 152-pound level. He won by fall and by scores of 3-2 and 3-5 for the 145 tournament title. Derouset pinned all three of his opponents for the heavy-weight crown.

"At the most, I think Justin Hale had one loss last year at the JV level," Whitaker said. "He's up quite a bit weight-wise, because he only wrestled at 125 or 130 last year. He's a tough kid."

Rich Carney and Chad Wilson are two natural 130-pounders who already have some varsity experience. Whitaker expects to strengthen his lineup by using both youngsters in the tournament.

He kept Carney at 133 and used Wilson at 112. Both won their first two matches by pins before losing — for the first time all year — in the finals to place second.

"They both won those same two weight classes this year at the (GCHS) Freshman Tournament, so they're talented kids," Whitaker said. "Chad only weighs 112 pounds, so that shows you how versatile he is to compete up at 112. I think both of them are 5-1 in their JV matches."

Whitaker used sophomore John Ashby at 125 pounds and freshman Dan Robinson at 130. Both were eliminated after two losses, though Robinson was underdoged and won two of his opponents. He won the GCHS tourney title at his normal 119 weight class at the freshman-match level.

"This is only the second year that he's ever wrestled," Whitaker said. "In another year or so, he's going to be very good. I think his JV record is 2-2 and he actually started the year on the varsity."

Freshman Kevin Buckingham, who finished fourth at the GCHS tourney at 135, went 0-2 at Howell North, but at 140 pounds. He only weighs about 130 pounds. Sophomore Kevin Covar also stepped up last week to go 2-2 and won the second round of the wrestling bracket. Covar, whose one win was by fall, barely weighs 145 pounds.

Whitaker laments that freshman Pat Jarman (bruised shoulder) was 6-0. Jarman placed fourth at 171 at the GCHS tournament, where he initially got injured. He's won all three actual freshman-level matches — excluding two injury forfeit losses — and is 1-0 in JV competition.

Junior Greg Bueck (2-4), who is still rebounding from sitting out his sophomore season, went 0-2 at Howell North in the 171 bracket. Whitaker used natural 171-pounder Craig Mooshegian, a sophomore, in the 189 bracket as a replacement for injured senior Kelly Huckleberry. Mooshegian was overpowered by his much bigger opponents and went 0-2.

But when healthy, the Warriors are perhaps the top JV team in the Metro East.

"Once we get a set lineup, I'd be disappointed if we didn't go undefeated in the Metro East meets this year," Whitaker said.

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Granite City's Jan Shanafelt bounces a pass by Jessica Jackson (right) of Belleville East. The Lady Warriors are scheduled to meet Carlyle in the first round of the Mascoutah Invitational Dec. 26.

Willis

(Continued from Page 18)

back row at a defensive specialist position. We had one freshman do that this year and he played a little bit, but not a whole lot."

Tender said Willis was understanding of the coaches' plan to bring her along slowly for the future. In fact, 10th-year head coach Julie Morgan suggested while recruiting Willis that she might have a better shot at earning a scholarship during her sophomore year.

"We didn't really expect her to come right in and play this year," Tender said. "She did some good things in practice, and being a left-handed hitter certainly is a unique advantage every program would like to have. But she wasn't ready to play in our 6-on-6 (intraquad) scrimmages, so she never really got to display her skills in game-type situations. She knows that time will come for her this spring, because we're losing four seniors to graduation."

ISU will practice for two months during the spring and host one tournament. The Redbirds also will visit tournaments at Illinois, Wisconsin and either Purdue or Notre Dame.

"They aren't official matches, but we play a day and it's good competition against good teams for kids who didn't play much during the fall," Tender said. "There's less pressure on them. Wins and losses don't matter, because we're just looking for individual improvement. Jennifer knows what she needs to work on and I think she's looking forward to showing us what she can do."

Morgan and Tender have little doubt the 5-foot-10 Willis

will eventually make an impact at ISU and perhaps even become a starter. Her prep resume at a recently successful GCHS program would suggest as much.

As a senior middle hitter, Willis led GCHS to a 19-12 record and a regional title, recording ten highs of 307 kills and 64 solo blocks.

She was recruited by several colleges, but chose ISU to stay close to home and become of its successful volleyball history. The Redbirds won the Missouri Valley Conference this year at 17-1 and ranked ninth in District 5. They upset Miami of Ohio the No. 8 district seed, in the first round of the NCAA tourney. Florida was the No. 1 district team.

"This was our first time in NCAAAs since 1993," Tender said. "It was the first time we've won an NCAA match since 1992. That was the only other time we ever won an NCAA match, so it was a good year for us."

Tender said Willis, who quit basketball as a prep senior to play winter club volleyball, shows as much enthusiasm about becoming a Redbird player as any underclassman in the program.

"Jennifer needs to work mostly on her strength and conditioning," Tender said. "She also needs to improve her back-row serve-receiving skills. Other than that, she just has to become a more consistent player."

"But we're certainly pleased with what we saw from her this year. She worked hard and did everything we asked of her. She gets along well with the rest of the team. I think she had a good experience. I think she'll have an even better one next year."

Wrestling

(Continued from Page 18)

ons. Moline is in it and they won the (Class AA) state team title last year (at 25-0). Let's alle-Peru's in it and they're another top program."

"The competition up there is great. We're working hard in the room and constantly trying to improve. Hopefully, it will pay off with a successful weekend."

On paper, the Warriors appear much stronger than West in the lighter weight classes of 103 through 125 pounds. West has senior Jeremy Klotz (9-1) at 130 and junior Nathan Rakkers (3-1) at 135, but Klotz has two forfeit victories. Rak-

ers' probable matchup against GCHS sophomore Kevin Worthen (7-2) looks more intriguing, although Worthen has been troubled recently by a sore knee.

The Warriors should control the 140, 145 and 152 divisions, but look out for last year's senior Doug Lopinot (3-1) who has lost only to Civic Memorial's Tim Walker by a 6-4 margin. GCHS junior Ike Newman (7-2) pinned Walker at 4:39 of their match. But Newman also got pinned at 5:52 by Edwardsville's Clint Freitag. Freitag lost to West's Kurt Kujawitz (2-2) at 152.

GCHS freshman George Kirgan (9-1) has a tough probable battle at 171 against West senior Keith Otten (3-1). Otten has lost only by a 17-7 score to CM's Travis Zimmerman, who went 28-8 last year as a junior state qualifier. Sophomore Kevin Venne should have the advantage over West senior Dee Holloway (0-4) at 189. But if the score stays close, the heavyweight finale should be an exciting clincher.

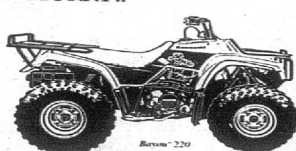
Junior E.J. Bertelsman (5-1) is probably the only favored West wrestler as a third-year varsity starter who went 31-9 last year and reached the state tournament. GCHS senior Nick Campbell was a backup to former GCHS great Chas Jankel the last three years and is now beginning to assert himself.

Campbell is 6-1, having lost only to Springfield Lanphier senior A.J. Akers, who reached state last year and won 38-3.

Bertelsman lost his opening match to McCluer North's Wes Eakins 6-5, but has won his last three with two pins and a CM's Tom Roettgers at 3:05 of their match while Campbell pinned Roettgers the night before in 2:55.

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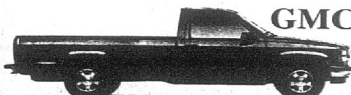
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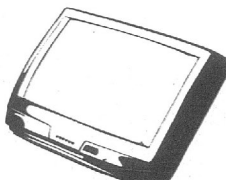
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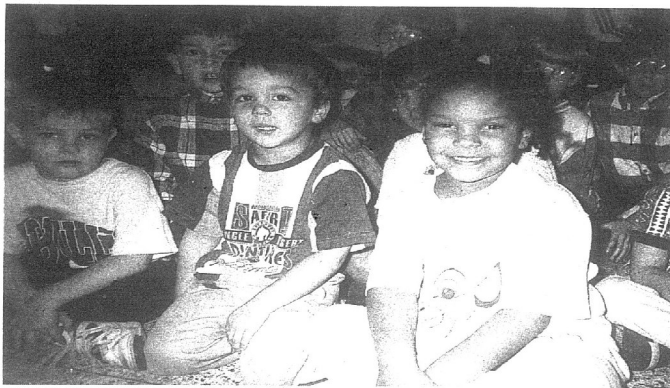
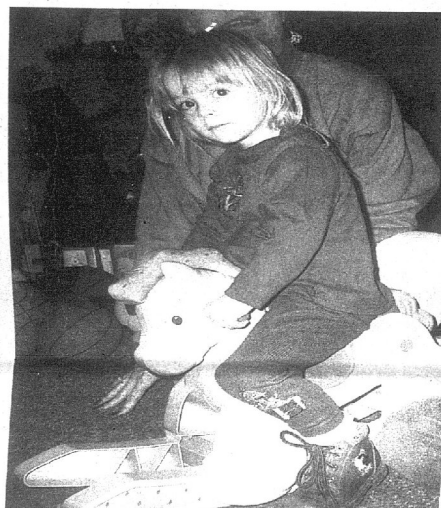
  

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People

Christmas for kids

Madison County Democrats
throw party for 700 children



The Madison County Democratic Precinct Committee-men treated about 700 Tri-City area children to a Christmas party Saturday at the Nelson Hagnauer Township Hall. Clockwise from top...Chris Miller of Madison shows off a toy truck he received...Three-year-old Haleigh Wyrstek rides a hobby horse...Sean Johnson, Shawn White and Alishia Jacks participate in fun and games...The Christmas for Kids committee: back row — Valerie Callender, Edward Suydan, Dewey Melton, Jerry Lakin, Sandy Pence, Larry Blackwell, Marge Nunn, Lou Passig and Foster Frederick; middle row — Darlene Laub, Gloria Knobloch, Stephanie Tinker, Debbie Stanton, David Woodard, Mike Patton and Yvonne Passig; front row — Frank Laub, Rufus Valencia, Karen Milton, Danny Hutchins, Marilyn Macsko, Diana Andrews; reclining — Santa...Ashley Kisum, wearing the dog costume she wore to entertain with the Kingskids puppet show, won a train set...Joshua Yurcisin receives a bike donated by Charlie Hester. Also presenting the bike were Gloria Knobloch and Debbie Stanton...The Kingskids from Edwardsville entertain the kids in Dalmatian costumes

Photos by Shirley Valencia

ENTERTAINMENT

Horoscope

Thursday, Dec. 19
All thoughts are on work with Mercury in detail-oriented Capricorn. There will be plenty of conversation going on around you today, so stay alert. Discussions can be very productive if everyone concentrates on the important issues at hand. Try not to get caught up in rehashing what has not worked in the past, and stay focused on the future.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
A short dalliance endangers your love relationship. Finance need complete attention. Government agencies approve requests. A co-worker tells others of your incredible skills on a new project. Buy yourself a treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Sensational luck must be used



Joyce Jillson

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now. Comebacks are possible in theater, politics and business. Women find mentors to guide them. A witness backs up your story. Libras of the opposite sex adore you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Choose between being overworked and influential or unpressured and mellow. Money comes from hard work.

Independent actions seem to alienate the people you care for most. A Leo pushes you buttons.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Neighbors violate a policy. Stop being a scapegoat. You must make forceful moves. A strike could really help you. Contact potential employers. Send out resumes. An old friend brings back memories of childhood.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Privileged information is yours due to trust you have built. Do not risk ruining that by using the information. Your romantic partner does not mean what he or she says. Make a change in your personal appearance.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 19)
You are an exceptional judge of character and only

affiliates yourself with people who lift you up. A rise in January will be quickly followed by a transfer. A love relationship takes off in May and could have wedding bells ringing by October, especially with a Libra or Cancer. Career strides in August are huge. Your luckiest months are March and September.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You disagree with co-workers. Do not undermine your beliefs as superiors applaud you for them. A new romance brings problems unless you are open and forthright. An Aries has good news when you are ready to receive it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
You must make an effort to change your mental attitude. Augmenting your income helps

your social life. Assist a teenager or a relative. Your advice is appreciated and gratefully accepted.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Quiet satisfaction is fine, but let others know of a triumph. Prevent romantic disappointments. Remain in circulation for a while longer. Look for a new place to live, or redecorate the home you have now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Co-workers are putting a great deal of stress on you. Seek out friends with common interests. Stop being concerned so much with pleasing others and your spirit will improve. A Gemini makes business.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Elusive goals are closer than you think. A child feels neglected. Rearrange your pri-

orities and schedules. Romance clouds your business judgments. Join new groups and you'll slowly gain a political presence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
A disorganized office leads to mistakes. Take time to teach others new skills. A new budget saves you money. Seniors get special favors or surprise checks. Research a possible new hobby — you have real talent.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Style is more important than being on time at a social event. Let people see your real personality. Differences are narrowed. Compromises clear up problems. Alter plans with your lover.

'Mars Attacks', pointlessly, expensive

Poor Lukas Haas. He was so effective as that big-eyed Amish boy in "Witness," and he's great fun as a reactionary adolescent in Woody Allen's "Everyone Says I Love You." So when he joins the cast of "Mars Attacks!" what does he get for his troubles? This kind of dialogue: The Martians just blew up the donut shop!

Sadly, that's one of the good lines in a movie worth watching only to see just how hollow and pointless even talented director-actors like Haas can be when they stray down wrong paths. This very expensive film, quite frankly, could end up being Burton's "Waterworld."

"Mars Attacks!" inspired by an obscure 1962 issue of Topps bubble-gum cards, plays like a 1987 video game. It's the classic trap of good idea, mediocre execution.

The movie wants to be to "Independence Day" what "Airplane!" was to "Airport." But it ends up a joylessly derivative hodge-podge that, at its best, is unsettling fun. It has echoes of 1960 sci-fi, but not quite; and echoes of biting satire and competent homage — but not quite.

The plot, in eight words: Ugly Martians arrive in saucers and start killing. Burton, who did "Batman," "Beetlejuice" and "Ed Wood," about a bad horror-sci-fi filmmaker, should know better, having delved so deeply into that mindset. At least Ed Wood made his turkeys cheaply.

There are shining moments. Rod Steiger, over-Steigered even himself, plays a war-weary general who's a combination of Douglas MacArthur, Curly the Stogie and Jabba the Hutt. Paul Giamatti is a Colin Powell-type military leader, post-sensitive and optimistic right down to the moment he's vaporized.

Sylvia Sidney is delightful as a demented grandmother who saves the world. An unusually understated Martin Short is fun as a horny, Stephanopolian White House press secretary. Aging football hero Jim Brown, though his dialogue is stiff, gives an earnest aging boxing hero.

But most of the major roles — and this is a true disappointment — are real disappointments.

Jack Nicholson's talent makes him incapable of incom-

petence, but he seems somnambulant, a dullard of a president who resembles Warren G. Harding on a bad acid trip. He's even worse in his second role, as a greedy Vegas huckster.

Glenn Close is an insubstantial first lady with elements of both Hillary Rodham Clinton and Nancy Reagan. Annette Bening is merely annoying as a doe-eyed, satin-wearing Las Vegas lush. And Michael J. Fox, Pam Grier and Danny DeVito are undeveloped and underused.

Pierce Brosnan, as the character who in the '50s would have been referred to as the "egghead," allows his ever-bubbling charm to consume him. He's reduced (or maybe elevated) in interacting romantically with Sara. The character of Parker's bleached blond head, grafted to her Chihuahua's body.

The real stars are the bloated-brained Martian nasties, with their Dr. Phibes-meets-Ewoks look and voices that sound like a cross between Scrooge McDuck and Pac-Man. The delight in the way they cause with Toys 'R Us ray guns that vaporize flesh and turn humans into emerald-hued skeletons.

Matter of fact, the only time the film gets going is when the Martians start tearing into Earth with gleeful howling and taking souvenir snapshots in front of an exploding Taj Mahal and watch reruns of "The Dukes of Hazzard" on their spaceship monitor. They even, unbelievably, outcackle Nicholson.

By the end, the completely unredeeming aliens prove more appealing for their relenting, self-laudatory evil than the Earthlings, who represent the sluggish, deluded worst of humanity.

There are no morals here, no messages except one: As a race, we're pathetic. Even the conclusion brings a final insult. Tom Jones survives to reseed the planet and sing a second act out doors while petting fauna near Tahoe.

"Mars Attacks!" is not entirely unenjoyable, it's nothing compared to a good pack of bubble-gum cards and an active imagination.

"Mars Attacks!" is directed by Tim Burton from a script by Jonathan Demme. It was produced by Larry Franco. It is rated PG-13 for cartoonish violence, alien dismemberment and swearing.

'The Preacher's Wife' a good holiday film

The feel-good Christmas movie is a holiday staple. This year, Penny Marshall chimes in with "The Preacher's Wife," a familiar story about an angel sent to help a troubled family.

The film — a remake of the 1947 movie "The Bishop's Wife," starring Cary Grant, Loretta Young and David Niven — is enjoyable enough as a holiday diversion, but won't resonate past the new year.

As the film opens, preacher Henry Biggs (Courteney B. Vance) has a major case of the December blues. He feels he's stretched too thin trying to serve his congregation of mostly poor folks facing the urban ills of crime and dislocated families. Henry is growing more distant from his wife, Julia (Whitney Houston), and worst of all, believes he's not doing a very good job tending his flock. Henry asks God for help.

Help arrives in a more material way than Henry imagined. Dudley (the angel, played by Washington) appears, and tells a disbelieving Henry that he is the answer to his prayers.

Dudley slowly works his way into the Biggs' life. He befriends their young son, upset because his best friend has left to be a foster family in another town, helps Henry with his duties and counsels the preacher's beautiful wife.

Along the way, the Biggs rediscover the happiness they never really had. Henry regains his passion for work and Julia falls in love all over again. There's even the good band (after a few innocent flirtatious moments with Dudley). "The Preacher's Wife" isn't at all bad. It's just not very good. This remake of a nice, but uninspired film fails to transcend the original.

The story is timeless (angel saves family during Christmas), the plot twists predictably, and the characters are businesslike — amusingly played by Gregory Hines who is a good comic with the Christmas spirit at the last moment and agrees not to demolish the preacher's church to make way for tennis courts. And the performances are credible, but not noteworthy.

Washington is amusing but

slightly miscast as a sweet, bumbling angel. The actor who so forcefully dominates the screen in compelling dramas such as "Glory" and "Courage Under Fire" seems out of place in this light-hearted film.

Houston's cast for her incredible voice. There's nothing wrong with that, but her character seems to be perpetually in a situation where she'll have the opportunity to break (impressively) into song. She lends the church choir, joins a bar band for an impromptu love ballad and fills in as Mary during the Christmas pageant.

Vance, recently seen in "Dangerous Minds," turns in a nice performance as the troubled preacher. Marshall does a workmanlike job directing the competent cast, but "The Preacher's Wife" lacks the spark that separated such earlier hits as "Big" and "A League of Their Own" from more standard fare.

The screenplay by Nat Mauldin and Allan Scott has some funny moments, especially the scenes in which Dudley enjoys some earthly pleasures he's

been denied in heaven (pizza and hot dogs) and when the angel must figure out how to work the preacher's computer (luckily, there's a section on Windows '95 in his angel hand book).

But too much of the dialogue is sappy and banal, especially the sermons. "The Preacher's Wife" will be liked by those wanting nothing more than a breezy night at the movies, but will disappoint those who rightfully expect more from such talents as Marshall and Washington.

A Touchstone Pictures release of a Samuel Goldwyn Jr. production, "The Preacher's Wife" is produced by Robert Greenhut and Elliott Abbott; co-producers are Debra Martin Chase, Amy Lomish and Timothy M. Bourne. Rated PG, the film opened Friday.

— Associated Press

Scholarship applications available

Applications are now available for the William and Florence Schmidt Memorial Scholarship in business studies at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

The scholarship was established in 1963 as a tribute to the Schmidts, who were long-time residents of Macoupin County.

The four-year scholarship is for entering freshmen who plan to earn a degree from the SIUE School of Business.

Applications are available from Robert Schutzu, assistant to the dean of the school.

Applicants must have a

record of good academic ability, with a grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale. For an application, or for more information, call Robert Schutzu at 692-3851 or write to him at the SIUE School of Business, Edwardsville, IL 62025-1086. He also may be reached through e-mail: rschutzu@siue.edu.

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Collection spreads Christmas spirit

STILLWATER, Minn. — If you're looking for something to get you in a Christmas mood, a visit to the Stillwater home of Dick and Lois Kohn will surely do the trick. You can't look in any direction of their 1913 three-story Tudor house without seeing a Santa: They have 3,000 of them.

Dick and Lois have been collectors for most of their lives, and about six years ago, at the urging of Sally Erickson of Valley Tours, they turned their house into a museum of sorts. People have been coming in groups small and large ever since. Thousands have been through the collection.

Their brood of Santas is the largest of their 60 collections. Their home and Santa ornaments, which Dick and Lois have collected since 1986, when the first one came out.

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— Associated Press

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DISN	(16)	+++
SATURDAY		7:00
BROADCAST		
KTVI	(2)	News
KMOV	(3)	The Day
KSKD	(4)	+++
KNCI	(5)	+++
KETC	(6)	Field
KPLR	(11)	Field
CABLE SAT		
SC	(3)	Score
CNN	(9)	Prime
NICK	(2)	News
ESPN	(6)	College
DISC	(24)	College
TBS	(13)	+++
WGN	(3)	Local
WHSN	(10)	Local Ch.
AMC	(28)	+++
TNN	(35)	News
MTV	(36)	Music
LIFE	(30)	"A.D.A.M."
HN	(33)	News
FAM	(26)	News
SCFI	(95)	Sighs
HST	(96)	History
PREMIUM		
HBO	(14)	+++
SHOW	(15)	+++
TMC	(17)	+++
DISN	(16)	+++
SATURDAY		1:00
BROADCAST		
KTVI	(2)	News
KMOV	(3)	The Day
KSKD	(4)	+++
KNCI	(5)	+++
KETC	(6)	Field
KPLR	(11)	Field
CABLE SAT		
SC	(3)	Score
CNN	(9)	Prime
NICK	(2)	News
ESPN	(6)	College
DISC	(24)	College
TBS	(13)	+++
WGN	(3)	Local
WHSN	(10)	Local Ch.
AMC	(28)	+++
TNN	(35)	News
MTV	(36)	Music
LIFE	(30)	"A.D.A.M."
HN	(33)	News
FAM	(26)	News
SCFI	(95)	Sighs
HST	(96)	History
PREMIUM		
HBO	(14)	+++
SHOW	(15)	+++
TMC	(17)	+++
DISN	(16)	+++
SATURDAY		7:00
BROADCAST		
KTVI	(2)	News
KMOV	(3)	The Day
KSKD	(4)	+++
KNCI	(5)	+++
KETC	(6)	Field
KPLR	(11)	Field
CABLE SAT		
SC	(3)	Score
CNN	(9)	Prime
NICK	(2)	News
ESPN	(6)	College
DISC	(24)	College
TBS	(13)	+++
WGN	(3)	Local
WHSN	(10)	Local Ch.
AMC	(28)	+++
TNN	(35)	News
MTV	(36)	Music
LIFE	(30)	"A.D.A.M."
HN	(33)	News
FAM	(26)	News
SCFI	(95)	Sighs
HST	(96)	History
PREMIUM		
HBO	(14)	+++
SHOW	(15)	+++
TMC	(17)	+++
DISN	(16)	+++

NEWS

Obituaries

Ruth Rogers

Ruth (Benton) Rogers, 88, of Granite City died at 9:42 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, 1996, in Clayton, Mo. She was born Oct. 12, 1908, in Ocala, Mo.

Mrs. Rogers was formerly employed at Fulton State Hospital in Fulton, Mo., as an LPN. Survivors include one daughter, Gloria Clark of Granite City; seven grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Luke Rogers, whom she married in 1956 and who died Nov. 3, 1971; and her parents, John and Lina (Robert) Benton.

Services were Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City, with the Rev. Carl Watkins officiating.

p.m. today, Thursday, at George J. Payne Home for Funerals, 618 East Airline Drive, Rosewood Heights (East Alton). There will be a prayer service at 4:30 p.m. Services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 20, at St. Bernard's Catholic Church, 345 E. Action, Wood River, with the Rev. James Neuman officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Edwardsville. Memorials to either Wood River Hospice or St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Wood River are suggested.

Eula Andrews

Eula Mae (Goodin) Andrews, 84, of Granite City died at 8:07 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, 1996, in the emergency room at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Granite City. She was born Nov. 11, 1912, in Stewart County, Tenn. She was a resident of Colonial Care Nursing Home in Granite City for the past seven years.

Mrs. Andrews, a homemaker, was a member of First Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include her spouse, Thomas C. Andrews, whom she married Sept. 6, 1931; two sons, Ewing L. and James L. Andrews; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, George and Ethel (Rutledge) Andrews, one daughter, Betty L. Dumont of Maryville; a sister, Mary Sykes of Granite City; nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Ethel (Rutledge) Andrews, one daughter, Betty L. Dumont of Maryville; a sister, Mary Sykes of Granite City; nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Services are scheduled for 1 p.m. today, Thursday, Dec. 19, at Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City, with the Rev. Carl R. Sanderson officiating. Burial will be in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon.

Memorials are suggested to First Assembly of God Church, 24th and Grand, Granite City.

Quinten Fowler

Quinten "Dick" Fowler, 76, of Hartford died at 12:15 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1996, at his home. He was born July 1, 1920, in Knox County, Mo.

Mr. Fowler retired in 1982 from Granite City Steel Co. after 26 years as a machine operator. He was a 32-year member of Wood River Masonic Lodge #1062 and a member of St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Wood River.

Survivors include his wife, Mary C. (Vrabeck) Fowler whom he married August 5, 1950, in Madison; one daughter, Jean Clark of East Alton; a brother, William Fowler of Hartford; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Royal and Beatrice M. (Hensley) Fowler.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8

USO expects 3,500 soldiers in 4 hours

By Barbara Ponder
Staff writer

When U.S. Army Pfc. Erik Almon passed through the James S. McDonnell USO last week, he had his choice of seats in the nearly empty facility.

Had Almon — who was traveling home to Massachusetts from Fort Leonard Wood — visited the USO this Friday, he would have encountered a sea of green.

"We'll have about 3,500 soldiers passing through," said Robert Stith of Dellwood, a USO volunteer. "It's called 'Goodies' when Fort Leonard Wood shuts down their training school for the holidays."

Stith's wife, Mary Ann, also a volunteer, said the annual exodus is an exciting time at the facility, located at Lambert St. Louis International Airport.

Exciting and hectic — the troops will march through in a four-hour period from 4:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Cookies and musical groups will entertain the troops as they feast on sandwiches, snacks and, hopefully, Christmas cookies.

"We're a little low on cookies this year," said Betty Spitzmiller, the facility's secretary. "Our storage room should be swimming in cookies and there's none back there."

Cookies, coffee and donuts have been staples at USO facilities since 1941 when six civilian military support agencies joined forces as the United Service Organizations.

Built in 1961, the James S. McDonnell facility is the

largest airport USO in the World. A non-profit organization, the facility operates strictly on donations from St. Louis businesses and community.

The 6,700 square foot facility houses relaxation areas, a nursery/playroom and temporary luggage storage area. The facility, open around the clock — has welcomed over 2 million visitors since opening.

The Stiths began volunteering at the facility about eight years ago.

"We think it's important to keep the value of the military person in the forefront," Stith said.

Stith, a former Dellwood alderman, remembers a slightly different USO from his service with the Army Air Corps — predecessor to the Air Force — in the mid-1940s.

"They were attuned to the soldier — period," Stith said. "The USOs were more in towns and cities and provided entertainment to soldiers stationed nearby."

Almon's was traveling with his father, who remembered the Saigon USO from his Vietnam service during the mid-1960s.

"We had a good time (at the USO)," said Wayne Almon. "It was a safe, secure place where soldiers could go to relax."

Over time, the organization has expanded its scope.

Today's USO provides a variety of services — including spiritual, social and medical — to soldiers, family members and retired military personnel.

To donate money, food or other items to the USO contact Betty Spitzmiller at 429-7739.

Area's Kwanzaa celebration called largest in the nation

By Lonnel Cole
Correspondent

Kwanzaa has grown from a grassroots effort on the 1960s to a mainstream holiday celebrated around the world.

Kwanzaa, which means "fresh fruits" in Swahili, is a holiday celebration of African-American culture and heritage.

Interest and participation in Kwanzaa, which annually runs from Dec. 26-Jan. 1, is growing, much to the pleasure of national and local organizers.

In the St. Louis area, the celebration will be preceded by the three-day Kwanzaa Holiday Expo Friday to Sunday at America's Center in Downtown St. Louis.

More than 40,000 people are expected to attend the event, which will feature merchants; guest speakers; national recording acts such as "The Delfonics," Alexander O'Neal and Miles Jaye; an educational summit and various shows.

Better Family Life Inc. is administering the effort here, with numerous businesses and media outlets providing the sponsorship.

Admission is \$5, but children under 6 go in free. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. all three days.

"This is the largest holiday Kwanzaa in the United States," said Nina Pratt of Better Family Life.

The overall participation level in St. Louis is greater than anywhere else, Pratt said.

More than 600 booths than the New York project. The participation level in the St. Louis community is up," Pratt said. "It's a grassroots celebration that is growing."

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a Pan-African scholar in California, who wanted to teach blacks about their African ways, holidays and early beginnings.

In recent years, Kwanzaa has been viewed as a means to educate others. It is now celebrated in some fashion in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, parts of Europe and parts of Africa.

Carlos Mandrake Wallace, a free-lance musician who will be playing with the local reggae group "Infrared Rhythms," the first night of the Expo, said Kwanzaa can be enriching to everyone.

"It's a time for people coming together and celebrating the heritage of blacks at Christmas. But for those not knowledgeable of African-Americans, perhaps they can get some knowledge by coming down."

The intangible elements of Kwanzaa

Festival set in E. St. Louis

By Jason White
Staff writer

Kwanzaa is turning 30. Dr. Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966 as a celebration of African heritage. He envisioned a holiday patterned after African harvest festivals; the name "Kwanzaa" is a Westernized form of the Swahili word for "first fruit."

In keeping with the harvest theme, this year's Kwanzaa will feature the first Taste of Africa food fair, where a variety of African food will be on hand, said Jahl Bakari, executive director of the Bakari Institute. Another first this year is that the programs will be run by the youth of the community, said Bakari.

This is the fourth consecutive year the Bakari Institute has hosted Kwanzaa. Each year, the festival has gained popularity in the Metro East; in 1995, the attendance was double that of 1994.

Dr. P. DuPree, a teacher at Vashon High School, said, "I recognize and acknowledge it. DuPree said, 'I think it's a great thing. It's a celebration of the commercialism of the Christmas spirit.'

"It's very positive. It's a celebration of self and family more so than going out and exchanging and purchasing gifts," he said. "It gives you a sense of self. It's a celebration to understand what you can be about."

Sarah Campbell, who is involved in the educational summit at the Expo, said students will definitely absorb a lot of information. The summit part of the Expo is being sponsored by Harris-Stowe State College, St. Louis Community College and the St. Louis Public Schools. Teachers, parents and students will participate in the forums.

"This educational summit will consist of 12 workshops, which will include one on economic empowerment," said Campbell.

"It's a time for people coming together and celebrating the heritage of blacks at Christmas. But for those not knowledgeable of African-Americans, perhaps they can get some knowledge by coming down."

— Carlos Wallace
Musician

Funeral summary

POARCH, Robert "Bobby," 35, of Murphysboro, formerly of Granite City, died Sunday, Dec. 8, 1996, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Murphysboro.

Services were held Thursday, Dec. 12, at Crain Funeral Home Pleasant Grove Chapel. Burial was in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

HARSHBARGER, Nellie Mae (Burns), 86, of Granite City, died at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, 1996, at Sunset Hill Memorial Estates, Glen Carbon.

Services were held Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Crain Funeral Home Pleasant Grove Chapel. Burial was in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

YBARRA, Jesse Xavier Sr., 64, of Granite City, died at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, 1996, at his residence.

Services were held Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 26th & Washington, Granite City, with the Rev. Bill Fisherkeller officiating. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Edwardsville.

Arrangements were handled by Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City.

BUDASH, Ann R. (Evanch), 81, of Madison died at 7:53 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, in the emergency room at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Granite City.

Services were held at 11 a.m. today, Thursday, Dec. 19, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 1621 10th Street, Madison, with the Rev. Jim Keefner officiating. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Edwardsville.

Arrangements were handled by Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City.

CHAPPEE, Edith Maude, 91, of Galveston, Texas, formerly of Granite City, died Thursday, November 28, 1996, in Galveston, Texas.

Services were held Friday, Dec. 13, at Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, with the Rev. John Childers officiating. Burial was in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates, Glen Carbon.

WENDLER, Edwin B., 76, of Granite City, formerly of Edwardsville, died at 5 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, where he had been a patient for three weeks.

Services were held Saturday, Dec. 14, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 2600 Washington, Granite City, with the Rev. Bill Fisherkeller officiating. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Glen Carbon.

Arrangements were handled by Thomas Mortuary, 2205 Pontoon Road, Granite City.

LOPEZ, Michael S., 51, of Germantown, son of Stephen J. and Virginia Lopez of Glen Carbon, died Sunday, Dec. 15, 1996, in Germantown, Germany.

Arrangements are pending at Weber Funeral Home, 304 N. Main, Edwardsville.

ARNOLD, Ernest, 65, of Pontoon Beach died at 12:00 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, 1996, at his residence.

Services were held Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Thomas Chapel, 2205 Pontoon Road, Granite City, with the Rev. Dr. Bob Jones and the Rev. John McKinley officiating. Burial was in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon.

Memorials to Shriners Hospital are suggested. James Lee Mitchell, 69, of Collinsville died at 1:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14,

1996. Services were held Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, with the Rev. Ron Hill officiating. Burial was in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon.

ATCHISSON, Arthur Dewey, 80, of Springfield, died at 4:00 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13, 1996, at St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

Services were held Monday, Dec. 16, at Staab Funeral Home in Springfield with the Rev. Michael J. Keppeler officiating. Burial was in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield.

VARTAN, Nelly L., 80, of Granite City died at 6:25 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, 1996, at her residence.

Services were held Monday, Dec. 16, at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church, 1723 Maple, Granite City, with the Rev. Fr. Vartan Kassabian officiating. Burial was in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon.

Memorials suggested to St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church Building Fund.

Arrangements handled by Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City.

DAKE, Patricia A., 50, of Austin, Texas, formerly of Granite City, died Thursday, Dec. 12, 1996, at her parent's home in Glen Carbon.

Services were held Monday, Dec. 16, at St. Cecilia Catholic Church, 156 N. Main, Glen Carbon, with the Rev. Steve Pohlman and the Rev. Jim Voelker officiating. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Edwardsville.

Memorials suggested to the Cancer Care Center of St. Joseph's Hospital, Kirkwood, Mo.

Arrangements handled by Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City.

TREFFTS, Edith Lucille, 80, of Pinckneyville died Thurs-

day, Dec. 5, 1996, at Pinckneyville Community Hospital.

Services were held Saturday, Dec. 7, at First Presbyterian Church, Pinckneyville, with the Rev. Michael Newbert officiating. Burial was in L.O.O.F. City Cemetery, Pinckneyville.

Arrangements were handled by Swaseh Funeral Home, Pinckneyville.

GLASGOW, Eva M. Bellinger, 87, of Albuquerque, N.M., died Thursday, Nov. 14, 1996, at Manor Care Nursing Home in Albuquerque, N.M.

Services were held Monday, Nov. 18, at Chester T. French Memorial Mausoleum Chapel, Albuquerque, N.M., with the Rev. Steven C. Davis officiating. Entombment was in Chester T. French Memorial Mausoleum.

FRENCH, Howard, 78, of Pontoon Beach died at 6:05 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, 1996, at his residence.

Arrangements pending at Werner Chapel for Funerals, 3939 Lake Drive, Pontoon Beach.

JURGENSON, Mildred Kathleen, 88, of Granite City died at 2:13 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1996, at her residence following a 1 1/2 year illness.

The body was cremated. Graveside services were held at National Cemetery.

Arrangements handled by Werner Chapel for Funerals, 3939 Lake Drive, Pontoon Beach.

CHIDENEMAN, Gertie P. (Thurman), 94, of Granite City died at 1:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13, 1996, at her residence.

Services were held Monday, Dec. 16, at Thomas Chapel, 2205 Pontoon Road, Granite City, with the Rev. Allen Reiter officiating. Burial was in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates, Glen Carbon.

Memorials are suggested to Hospice of Southern Illinois or St. John's United Church of Christ, 209 N.amecki Road, Granite City.

LILLY, Deana (Smith), 67, of Fairview, Mo., died at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1996, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Granite City.

Services were held Saturday, Dec. 14, at Herbert A. Kassaly Funeral Home Ltd., 515 Vandavia, Collinsville, with the Rev. Barry Harris officiating. Burial was in St. John Cemetery, Collinsville.

Memorials suggested to the American Heart Association.

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THANK YOU!

We would like to thank everyone for their flowers, cards, donations, and words of sympathy. We would especially like to thank Davis Funeral Home, Father, and the sixth floor of St. Elizabeth Hospital for their kindness toward our family.

The family of

Albert S. Lewis, Sr.

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FAMILY

Wedding

Murphy-Dvorak

Michelle Dvorak and Bryan Murphy were married Sept. 28, 1996, at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Granite City by Father Frances.

The bride is the daughter of Bob and Gloria Dvorak of Warden. She is employed by Fisher Insurance in Staunton as an insurance agent.

The groom is the son of Don and Della Murphy of Pontoon Beach. A graduate of Granite City High School North, he is employed by Loy-Lange Box Co. in St. Louis as a shipping clerk.

The maid of honor was Debbie Cottrell of Parkersburg, W. Va., sister of the bride. The bridesmaids were Ashley Murphy, daughter of the groom; Lori Rave, sister of the bride; and Stephanie Miller, friend of the bride and the groom.

Keith Lombardo of St. Louis, friend of the groom, was the best man. The groomsmen



Michelle Dvorak and Bryan Murphy

were Dustin Murphy, son of the groom; and Gary Smith and Steve Schanuel, friends of the bride and groom.

The flower girl was Cassidy Cottrell, niece of the bride. Ushers were Doug Schuster and Jeff Korman.

Following a honeymoon in Florida, the couple will reside in Pontoon Beach.

Beauty queens

Amanda Whitehead named City Queen

Amanda Whitehead was selected as a City Queen by the Miss Junior America selection committee on the basis of picture, application and interview. She was chosen to represent her city in the prestigious Junior America State competition held in her state and is the only girl who has that particular title. Miss Jr. America is a trademarked name and has been respected for 13 years.

Amanda is the daughter of



Amanda Whitehead

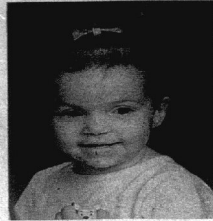
Jim and Terry Whitehead of Granite City. She is active in gymnastics, horseback riding, dance and cheerleading. She has received first place in gymnastics class for the past four years.

Emily Rose Lake titled Little Miss Snowflake

Emily Rose Lake, 2, daughter of John and Teri Lake of Madison, competed in the Little Miss Snowflake pageant hosted by J & B Pageants on Sunday, Nov. 17, 1998, at the Alton Holiday Inn.

Emily, who turned 2 on Nov. 16, was competing in the 16-24 month age division and was awarded best personality, most beautiful, prettiest eyes, best portfolio, second runner-up in Beauty and High Point Princess.

Emily is the sister of Whitney Lake, granddaughter of Carol and Gene Robertson, and the great-granddaughter of Ed Robertson, all of Madison; and



Emily Lake

the granddaughter of Allen and Joan Bloodworth of Granite City.

Church news

Evening Circle meets Nov. 19

The Evening Circle of the First Presbyterian Church met Nov. 19 at the home of Vee Throne. Chairwoman Burdine Holtzschler presided and opened the meeting with a poem, "Thanks For the Little Things." Secretary Bette Rea read the minutes and the treasurer's report was made by Barbara Landis.

Members were reminded of the Community Thanksgiving Service to be held at First Presbyterian Church on Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m. The service featured the Rev. Bruce Rushing of the Niedringhaus Methodist Church as the preacher of the evening. A combined choir of singers from churches throughout the community, under the direction of Beverly Scroggins, sang "Come and Thank Him" and "Majesty."

First Presbyterian Church's second concert of the '98-'99 season will be held at 3 p.m. on Dec. 1. The St. Louis Symphony Children's Chorus will be in concert presenting a holi-

day venue. This world renowned choir of 80 children has won acclaim for their diction, musicianship, and perfect intonation. First Presbyterian Church is honored and privileged to host this spectacular choir.

Plans for the Circle Christmas party were discussed. It was held at 6 p.m. on Dec. 17. In lieu of a gift exchange, members elected to make a monetary gift to Protestant Welfare.

Betty Schmedake gave a report on the church bazaar which was held recently. It was announced by Shirley Yates that the church was sponsoring a bus tour to Tilles Park on Dec. 11 to view the holiday light spectacular.

The Mission Yearbook of Prayer was read by June Jones, remembering the Indian Nations Presbytery of Oklahoma, followed by prayer.

Barbara Landis gave the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

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Organizations

CWU meets on Nov. 21

Church Women United's monthly meeting was held on Nov. 21 at Holy Family Catholic Church Community Center with Helen Todoroff presiding. The devotion was presented by Joyce Toussaint on "Putting Our Faith Into Action." Lena Seitzer was hostess for the refreshments. Marcia Wooden from Peace Freewill Baptist Church was introduced as a new member. The First Assembly of God and the Church of Christ have been reinstated into the membership. Four Square Church also wished to join our meetings.

Muriel Kratz asked for volunteers to work at the Protestant Welfare office to help distribute and select Christmas clothing and toys for the applicants during the week of Dec. 16 through 20. At their banquet on Nov. 15, Protestant Welfare presented this organization with a certificate of appreciation for all the help we provide. Muriel also reminded the members to continue to bring small items for the parents store of Head Start that food stamps cannot buy. Our unit of Church Women United was recognized by the New York office for the donations we send derived from portions of the free will offerings from the World Day of Prayer and the World Community Day celebrations. Church World Services also acknowledged our monetary support to buy blankets for the needy.

Lena Seitzer reported on the H.O.M.E. project supported by the Hen House Restaurant. Several members of CWU served as waitresses. Fifteen percent of the proceeds went to CWU which contributes money to this project and helps in other ways. It is hoped that other restaurants will also participate in this manner. CWU members are also selling lapel pins for the H.O.M.E. report.

Annabelle Patton reported 72 layettes were given away in 1996 to new mothers in need. The Lions club donated money to the layette program as well as churches and other organizations in the community.

Helen Todoroff asked for an update on names and addresses for the new directory that will be furnished Jan. 24 at the annual meeting at Holy Family Catholic Church Center. It will be a soup luncheon. Dorothy Kinney needs reports from chairpersons of all projects at the Christmas party. Each person should bring a craft item to be sold, a "white elephant" item to be auctioned, and a covered dish for lunch. Baskets of goodies will also be raffled. Friends are welcome.

Those in attendance were Doris Anderson, Helen Bertacchi, Carolyn Brennan, Phyllis

Entertainment

Big band concert Friday, Dec. 17

Drummer Stan Fornaszewski and His Orchestra, featuring vocalist Bonnie Fornaszewski, will present a holiday big band concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 17, in the cafeteria at Belleville Area College's Granite City Campus.

The concert, featuring Big Band and Christmas songs, is free.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. For more information, call 451-1346 or 877-5510.

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Organizations

Sarah Ci

On November 19, Circle from Central Church met at the Doris Pekarik. Mrs. Kacera, Mary L. Ruby Hart, Ann O. Lelik, Lena Seitzer, Pulaski. The table had a Thanksgiving Lena Seitzer, opened the meeting announced that Church United were holding drive at Suburban Church that day encouraged the meeting at the Hen House Restaurant between 5 and 6 p.m. The restaurant was percent of their H.O.M.E. project. Church Women United helping at the Hen House promote the program. The general C Church Women United serve two luncheon ber. One for Coterie and one to Nameless.

Garden Stu

On December 4th, den Study Club meeting at Fishers in Belleville. The ing was called to President Helen M for the coming year and new of on. New members cott, Jane Moore, coterie women club. Other members were Jean Holde

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Organizations

Sarah Circle meets Nov. 19

On November 19, the Sarah Circle from Central Christian Church met at the home of Doris Pekarik. Mrs. Pekarik served a brunch to Marge Kacera, Mary Lee Lorton, Ruby Hart, Ann Osborn, Ruth Lelik, Lena Seitzer and Wilma Pulaski. The table decoration had a Thanksgiving theme.

Lena Seitzer, co-leader opened the meeting. She announced that Church Women United were holding a blood drive at Suburban Baptist Church that day. She also encouraged the members to eat at the Hen House that evening between 5 and 9:30 p.m. The restaurant was donating 10 percent of their receipts to the H.O.M.E. project. Members of Church Women United will be helping at the Hen House to promote the program.

The general C.W.F. will serve two luncheons in December. One for Coterie on Dec. 5 and one to Nameoki Women on

Dec. 19. Mary Lee Lorton, Jo Stephens and Joyce Bennington will be chairmen of these meals.

The group planned their gifts to their shut-ins for Christmas. These were delivered on Dec. 16. On that day Sarah Circle held their Christmas Party at the home of Mary Lee Lorton and it was a Christmas luncheon, with a gift exchange. Ann Osborn, service leader, collected items to make up a Layette which will be given to that program sponsored by Church Women United.

The next general meeting will be held at Central Christian Church. Ruth Lelik and Helen Stumpe will lead the study and worship for that gathering. Ruth Lelik gave the study, titled, "Training yourself in Godliness," taken from Timothy 1 and 2. She closed the meeting with prayer.

TRIO meets

TRIO Unit of Madison County Association for Home & Community Education met Tuesday, Nov. 12 at Hope Lutheran Church in Granite City. Judie Schatz was the local leader for the "Craft Day" meeting.

President Sarah Huber reminded the members of the Christmas Party to be held at Hope Lutheran Church on Dec. 3. Reservations were made to Emma Sakich. Canned goods were collected at the party. Juanita McCarty and Lucille Sackett served delicious refreshments to the 14 members who attended the meeting.

Beta Sigma Phi meets

Members of Illinois Omicron Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held a meeting in the home of Pat Tsigalaroff on Oct. 2. Members, lead by Delores Fortch, discussed the popularity of First Ladies and the qualities that endeared them to the public. The group met on Oct. 12 for a fall foliage drive through Madison and St. Clair counties, followed by lunch at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville. On Oct. 16 the meeting was held in the home of Arlene Haldeman, with the program on the Women's Suffrage Movement, given by Elen Brackett. She detailed the efforts of Lucricia Mott.



Pictured are new members of Eagles Auxiliary No. 1126 for the month of October. Left to right: Flo Zuch, Alexis Raible, and Susan Allen, Auxiliary president.

Garden Study Club meets at Fishers

On December 4th, the Garden Study Club held their meeting at Fishers Restaurant in Belleville. The short meeting was called to order by President Helen Mih. Ballots for the coming year were distributed and new officers voted on. New members Tony Turcott, Jane Moore, and Anita Guss were welcomed into the club. Other members present were Jean Holder, Delores

Gasso, Laverne Malynsky, Mary Church, Martha Simpson, Paula Gonterman, Carol Smith, Katie Kostoff, Mary Mangi, Irene Dorough, Dusty Peterson, Ellen Amsler, Mildred Boyd, Rose Piechocinski. Games were played and Christmas gifts were exchanged. The meeting was adjourned and the group toured Our Lady of the Snows Shrine.



In the photo above left are Eagles Auxiliary President Susan Allen, left, and new member Diane Fife, who was initiated at the Nov. 26 meeting. In the photo above are new member Patricia Davis, left, and Susan Allen, Auxiliary president. Davis was initiated at the District 7 meeting held in Wood River on Nov. 10.

Eagles Auxiliary meets

Before the meeting of the Eagles Auxiliary, Chaplain Nina Jackson offered a prayer for the speedy recovery of Trustee Florence Hagnauer, who was in the hospital.

Roll call of officers was taken with Conductresses Helen Mih and Hagnauer being absent.

The dual membership of Jean Massingill was approved. She is a member of San Pablo, Calif. Auxiliary 3028.

Secretary Vincine Zerlan read two new applications. Membership chairman Joanna Spencer approved the application of Diane Fife. She was then voted on and initiated by the ritual team.

The correspondence consisted of a no-goose egg sticker for October from the Grand Aerie as well as the Illinois newsletter.

The visiting chairman sent a sympathy card to Bill and Sue McCoy and a get well card to Del Deloney.

President Susan Allen talked

about the Christmas party, which was on Dec. 10. There was a sitdown dinner before the meeting. Jim Eoyd was in charge of the dinner. She also talked about the needy family the Auxiliary is helping this Christmas. Donations and gifts for the family were collected.

She also talked about the membership party that will be held in March. The group, Day Dreams, from St. Louis will provide the entertainment. Joanna Spencer talked about the Officers Weekend, which will be held in January. She outlined some of the activities and stated that she will be needing help.

Jackpot, winner was Mary Johnson. She was not present and, therefore there was no winner.

Good of the Auxiliary was held and the winners were Del Deloney and Mary Church.

The meeting was then adjourned and refreshments were served by Susan Allen and her committee.

50 attend Senior Citizens meeting

More than 50 members attended the Nov. 19 meeting of the Pontoon Beach Senior Citizens. Entertainment was provided by Lady & The Cop (Margo and Jimmy Carter) acclaimed from Missouri, Illinois, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Oklahoma, Nebraska, New Mexico and wherever else they appear.

Those in attendance were Corrine and Otto Kreher, Irene McCaslin, Birdie Tayon, Betty McGinness, Irene Weber, Lee and Betty June Ridgeway, Helen Hutton, Edna Bennett, Robbie and Glen Wilson, Carl and Jean Horsmeyer, Vera Bolton, Millie Butler, George Ann Collins, Mary Hassel-

brock, Janet Martin, Gertie Ashford, Mary Merz, John and Myrtle Thurston, Arthur and Nellie Forrest, Lorraine Parkinson, Doretha Kirksey, Pat Fitchett, Millie Gross, Earl and Rose Edmiston, Gladys Bass, Ida Ferguson, Helen Niepert, Goldene and Ed Vanscoyk, Jim and Dianne Hill, Walt Crowell, Ruth and William Dagon, Frances Harper, Mabel Kennerly, Irene Karlechik, Charles Kunick, Jean and Elmer Dehn and Helen Cholevik.

The Christmas Party was Dec. 17 for members with tickets. The pot luck will be Dec. 28th, with bingo to follow.

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ADVENT QUESTIONS
SUNDAYS AT 9:45 A.M.
SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:45 A.M.
EVERYONE WELCOME!

DECEMBER 15
Christmas Cantata - 7:00 P.M.
"ADORATION IN SEARCH OF A KING"

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
10:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE
"Candlelight Communion Service"
Meditation "Advent Question: Is It Christmas Yet?"

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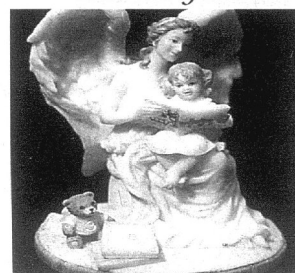
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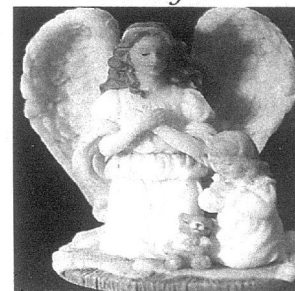
first year



second year



third year



fourth year



fifth year

HOLIDAY HOURS
MON.-SAT.
9 am - 10 pm
SUN.
10 am - 6 pm



JAN'S HALLMARK



Belleville
Westfield Plaza
233-1767

Cahokia
Cahokia Village Shp. Center
337-4255

Granite City
Crossroads Plaza
451-1767

Swansea
Schnucks Swansea Plaza
236-7467

(New Location)
Edwardsville
Edwardsville MKTLC.
656-9445

Collinsville
Lakeside Plaza
345-4880

O'Fallon
Southview Plaza
632-8907

Voice

GC
Telephone Center

VOLUME

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